









# Pupil, 8, can walk 5 miles daily, Law Lords decide

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Any healthy child of eight should be quite capable of walking a daily five-mile return trip from home to school, the Law Lords ruled yesterday.

In a unanimous test-case decision they overturned a Court of Appeal ruling that Devon County Council should provide a free bus pass for Christopher George, who, at the age of eight, faced a 2.8-mile walk to school along muddy Devon county lanes.

Upholding the right of education authorities to refuse free transport to pupils living within three miles of school, the Law Lords said that it was up to parents to ensure that their children could get to school safely.

They endorsed the findings of the High Court judge who first heard the case in 1986 that a normal healthy boy of Christopher's age should be capable of walking without getting "too tired".

The decision was welcomed by the Association of County Councils which said that if the original Court of Appeal ruling had been upheld it could have cost ratepayers in England and Wales £90 million a year.

"Authorities would have been overwhelmed by claims for free transport," Lord Keith of Kington said.

There are various things which a parent may have to do to bring about the child's attendance at school, such as seeing that he gets up in the morning and sets out in reasonable time.

"In the case of an unwilling child it may be necessary for the parent to take the child to school in order to bring about his attendance."

"In general, the parent must do those things which are reasonably practicable to be done and which an ordinary parent would do."

That might include accompanying the child when it would be unsafe for the child to go alone, such as where the route crossed a busy road.

Christopher, now aged 10, was living in the village of Thornbury and attending Bradford Church of England School, Holsworthy, when his parents brought the case. The family has since moved but Devon County Council took the matter to the Law Lords because of its importance as a test case.

They decided it was "reasonably practicable" for one of the boy's parents to walk to school with him each day. At the time free transport was refused Christopher's stepfather was unemployed and the family was living on social security.

In making its final decision in March 1987 the schools transport panel said it was satisfied the route, which was within the statutory three-mile limit for children over eight, was one which an unaccompanied child could walk with reasonable safety.

Lord Keith said there was no suggestion that Christopher was not a normal, healthy boy for his age. It had not been shown that the education authority was mistaken in law, nor was its decision unreasonable.

Parliament had contemplated that in appropriate circumstances a child would be accompanied to school and local authorities were entitled to take into account in refusing free transport whether it was practical for a parent to take a child to school over a route which would not be available to a child on its own.

Lord Brandon, Lord Oliver, Lord Goff and Lord Lowry agreed in allowing the appeal. Devon County Council said: "It would have had tremendous repercussions for authorities across the country if we lost this appeal. Authorities all over the country would have been faced with hundreds of claims from parents."

Law Report, page 40

# Boat boy saw his brother and friend die

A schoolboy tried in vain to save his brother and a friend after their speedboat sank during a joyride, an inquest was told yesterday.

Edmund Davies, aged 14, died in Kevin Butler's arms after Bernard Butler, aged 19, drifted away to his death in freezing seas off the Cornish coast, Dr David Bruce, the coroner, was told.

Kevin, aged 14, of Watergate, near Looe in Cornwall, survived for five hours before being rescued by a lifeboat crew.

In a statement read by Dr Bruce at Liskeard, Cornwall, Kevin said their ordeal began on the evening of April 5, when his father's 15ft, 90hp speedboat, White Fire, sank after the engine failed to restart.

The trio hung on to the side of the submerged boat but eventually decided to try to swim to safety.

Kevin said: "Bernard was very tired. He was the weakest because he never had a lifejacket. We took it in turns to hold him up."

"I began drifting away but swam back to find them both. Bernard drifted away from us but I held on to each other but then Edmund was on his back, gurgling with the water."

"I kept hitting him on the back because he was swallowing water. But it was no use."

"I held on to him and began swimming towards the shore. After a while I realized he might be dead as he was floating face downwards. I tried to hold on to him but I



Kevin Butler (left) before yesterday's inquest on Bernard Butler (top) and Edmund Davies.

couldn't. My hands were frozen and he drifted away."

Kevin was rescued by the Fowey lifeboat just before 2am.

Much of the evidence at the inquest, expected to last two days, will focus on the amount of time it took Plymouth and Fowey rescue crews to launch

their craft.

Mr Bob Butler, father of the brothers, has claimed that the delay in the launch of the Fowey lifeboat led to his son's death.

Mr Francis Billing, a senior coastguard, said the team learnt that a speedboat was overdue at 9.20pm, 20 minutes

Asked about his initial concern for the boys, Mr Billing said: "It was not a distress situation. It was what we would call an 'uncertainty' situation."

He said speedboats were "very frequently" reported overdue but in most cases they arrived safely. He could not justify calling out the lifeboat at the time of the conversation.

Mr George Rounce, the duty district coastguard officer, took over the operation soon after 10.30pm. The Fowey lifeboat was launched at 11.10pm, and the Plymouth lifeboat was launched 21 minutes later.

Mr Philip Reid, aged 59, a retired major in the Royal Marines, now secretary of Plymouth lifeboat group, said that when he was called by the coastguard he felt the speedboat would be more likely to be in the Fowey lifeboat area because, from experience, he thought the boat would have drifted to the west.

He suggested the coastguard contact the secretary of the Fowey lifeboat, which could be on scene 30 minutes earlier. He admitted, however: "We considered a number of scenarios and it could have been anywhere within 25 miles of Looe in any direction."

Kevin was found three or four miles to the west of Looe Island.

WPC Deborah Tall said the lifejacket worn by Edmund Davies was in "poor condition".

The inquest continues today.

# Whitehall staff 'are leaving for more pay'

By David Walker  
Public Administration  
Correspondent

A Treasury official has given his superiors a public warning that Whitehall principals are abandoning the Civil Service because their living standards are "well below" contemporaries in other jobs.

He says housing costs in London are so high that young Civil Servants do not enjoy the same standard of life as their superiors did when they were in lower grades.

Mr Nicholas Holgate, regarded as an up-and-coming official, says in an article in the journal of the First Division Association - the senior administrators' union - that his superiors should pass the facts on to ministers.

Until 1983, he says, an entrant to the Civil Service from a university background might have been able to afford a flat in London. Now they require savings equivalent to two-and-a-half years of their disposable income, and even then there is a substantial gap between the price of available housing and the maximum mortgage their salary commands.

"In the end many resign because they realize their living standards are well below those of their contemporaries."

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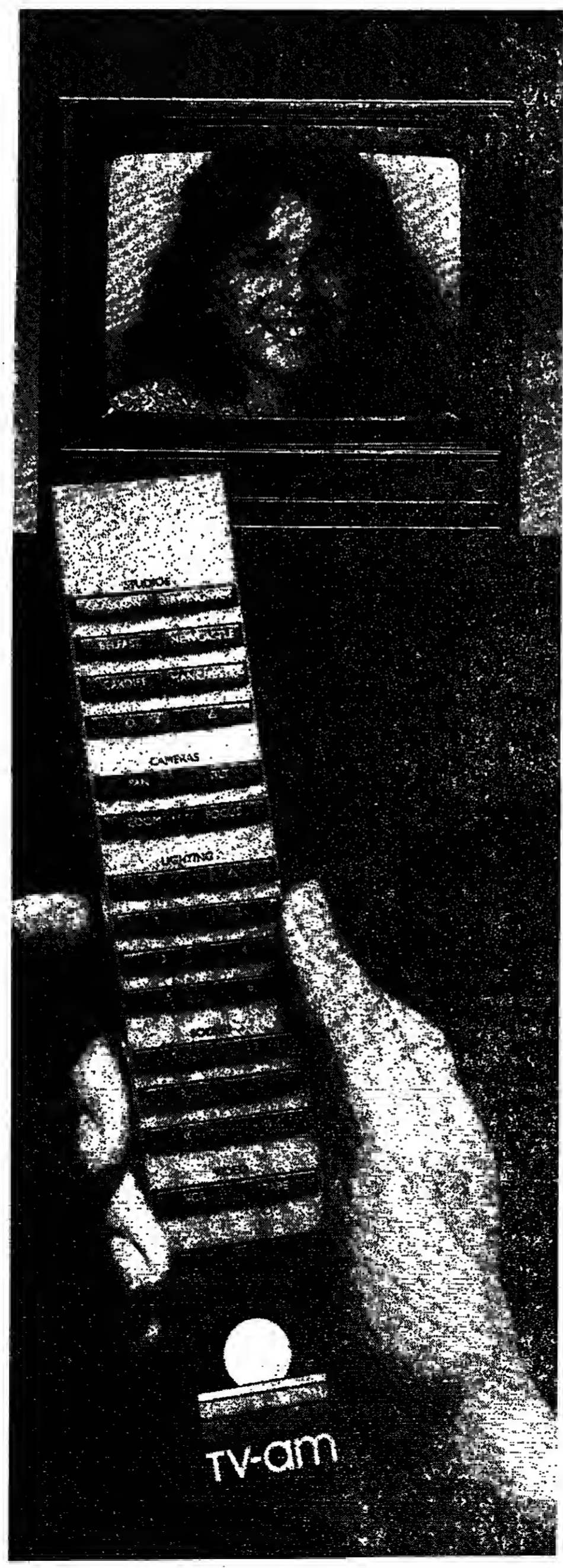
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# Poll tax boycott call to student conference

By Sam Kiley, Higher Education Reporter

Students will be called upon to boycott the community charge in a nationwide campaign of civil disobedience designed to "defeat the poll tax" at the bi-annual National Union of Students conference which begins today.

The conference will also consider how best it might head off the Government's proposals to introduce student loans while freezing the maintenance grant.

The main "poll tax" motion, tabled by the School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, calls upon the unions and possibly to organize the first co-ordinated campaign against the community charge in Glasgow next term.

Normally decisions taken at the conference are binding on the executive. Sources said, however, that a co-ordinated campaign encouraging people to break the

law could be resisted from inside, and "prove very embarrassing as they try and to take on the Government on loans and vouchers".

There has been a surge in student political activity after the publication of the White Paper on top-up loans for students.

Analysts agree that motions attacking the Government on the poll tax, its education policy and the possible introduction of tuition fees vouchers, and on student loans are likely to commit the union to organising a series of demonstrations and possibly civil disobedience campaigns of a sort not seen since 1968.

A student union source said yesterday: "Students are undergoing a process of political awakening after a period of some apathy".

The executive still favours the selective lobbying of members of Parliament.

# Man has used fire for 1.5m years

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Evidence for the earliest use of fire by prehistoric man almost 1.5 million years ago, for cooking meat, is reported today from one of the world's most important archaeological sites.

The delicacies of the day appear to have included roast antelope, warthog, zebra and baboon.

The details described in the latest issue of the scientific periodical, *Nature*, come from an analysis of fossils from the Swartkrans caves in southern Africa.

Recent excavations of the caves by scientists from the Transvaal Museum in Pretoria, and the University of Cape Town, uncovered pieces of bone that seemed to have been altered by fire.

They were obtained from the part of the site where evidence had previously been established of the presence of early man up to a million and half years ago.

Although some distinctive characteristics of burnt bone and tooth surfaces have been described by other researchers, the identification of heavily encrusted objects as having been burnt on a campfire is difficult.

So the scientists experimented with fresh bones, examining the histological, or cell, structure, and chemical changes that occurred when they were heated to various

temperatures and cooled slowly.

When analysed by forensic science tests under the microscope, the bones that remained intact were comparable with the changes detectable on the fossil remains. The changes happened at moderate temperatures that would be expected from a caveman's wood fire.

More than 270 fossil pieces were scrutinized, and it was inferred from the structural and colour changes that some 46 were lightly cooked at below 300 degrees and others between 300 and 400 degrees, and others up to 500 degrees.

Only indirect evidence had been obtained previously suggesting that fire might have been used by primitive man a million years ago in the form of unusual magnetic measurements obtained from sediments.

The heat from fire can alter the magnetic characteristics of minerals.

With the new fossils there is also evidence of cut-marks on the bones suggesting that butchery was practised as well.

The scientists suggest that the use of the fire primarily as protection against predators and for warmth remained a possibility. Nevertheless, the findings extend the date by which man clearly used fire by about another 500,000 years.

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# Brewers praised for effort to reduce drunken driving

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

With the pre-Christmas blitz on drink-driving due to be launched on Monday, ministers from the Home Office and the Department of Transport are discussing suggestions from the police that they should be given unfettered discretion to breath test anyone they wish.

The Government has not ruled out the possibility of introducing random breath testing but Mr Peter Bottomley, the transport minister in charge of the anti-drink driving initiatives, sees no need for it at present.

He argues that the police have all the powers they need.

Ministers are claiming significant success in curbing what Mr Bottomley calls "the link between throttle and bottle" without changes either in funding or the law.

Drink-driving figures are falling faster in Britain than practically anywhere else in the world and Mr Bottomley says brewers deserve the largest share of the credit.

Department of Transport studies show that 52 per cent

of drivers and riders in the 20-24 age group killed in accidents in 1978 were over the legal blood-alcohol limit. The figure has dropped to 29 per cent.

In the four years after random breath testing was introduced in New South Wales, Australia, alcohol-related fatalities on roads dropped from 40 to 34 per cent. In the comparable period in Britain they fell from 36 to 27 per cent for drivers and from 29 to 22 per cent for motor-cyclists.

In Britain 67 per cent more drivers and riders involved in "injury accidents" were tested in 1987 than in 1986, but 8 per cent fewer failed the test.

Mr Bottomley said that when breath tests were introduced 21 years ago it was considered normal to drink and drive. "Now 95 per cent look on themselves and their families as potential victims of the drinking and driving of others."

He added: "That social change has come. We are beginning to make drinking

and driving as socially unacceptable as smoking in church, chapel, mosque, temple or synagogue."

The minister, whose office resembles more a school study with drink-driving posters on the walls and a fridge full of non-alcoholic beers and soft drinks, said the turnaround in attitudes was an example of "Thatcherism in action".

There had been no new legislation and no change in sentencing policy. The answer had proved to be shared responsibility, he said.

The traditional response of government to a problem, he said, was to ask what law could be changed.

"Would it have been better to lower the legal limit? Or there is random testing. That has not been tried out."

"The police would like to have unfettered discretion and the Home Office and Transport Department are considering that. The only people the police can't test at the moment are those they know have not been drinking."

Mr Bottomley said: "The

real aim in this game was to quadruple the sales of alcohol-free beers and lagers".

The success of the campaign can be measured by the fact that alcohol-free or low-alcohol beers and lagers, the so-called Nablabs, are now available in almost every public house in Britain.

In 1986 Britain's brewers produced 150,000 barrels of Nablabs.

This year they are producing 600,000 barrels.

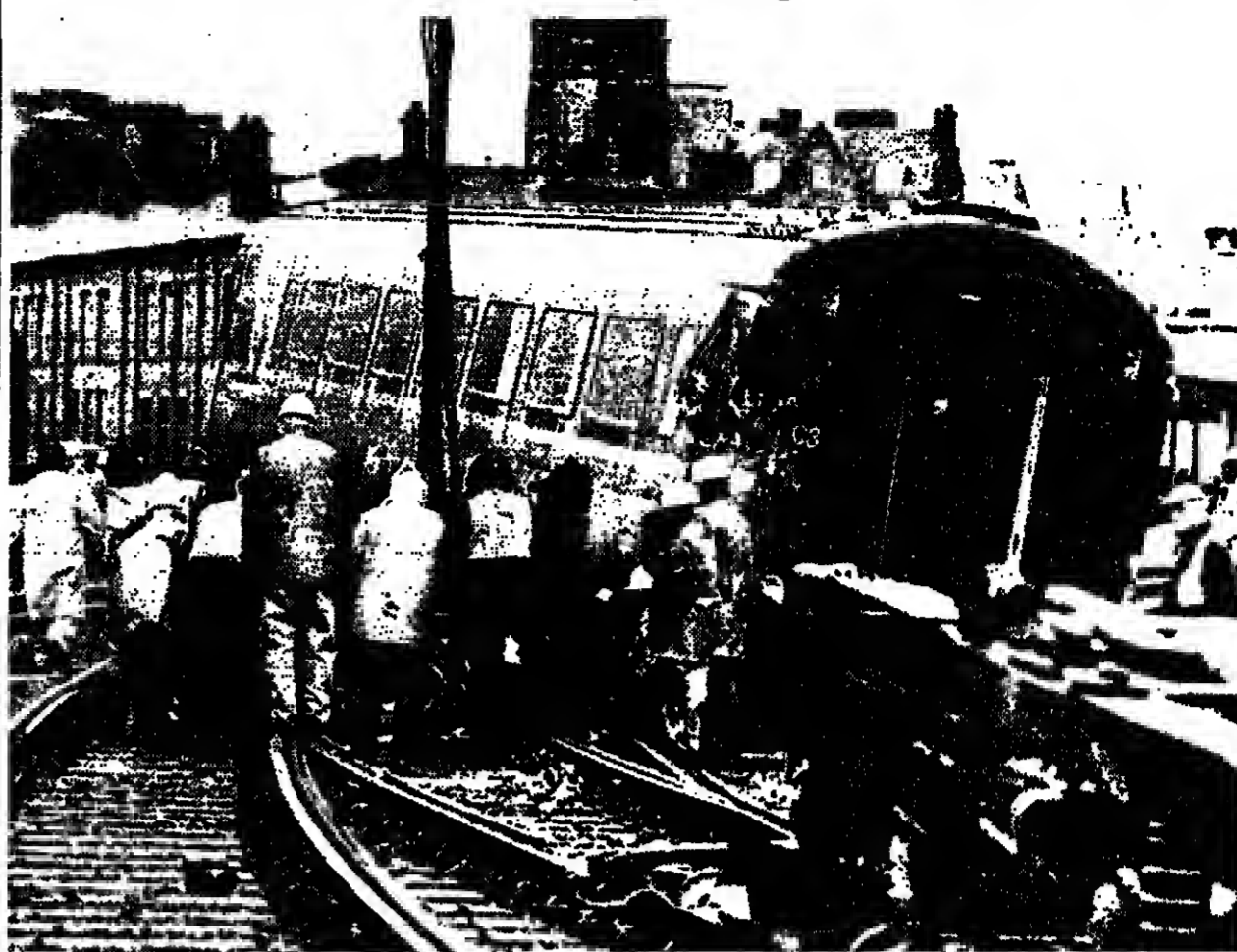
The value of the trade has risen from £20 million to £90 million and this year brewers are spending £15 million on advertising non-alcoholic or low-alcohol drinks.

What irritates the Ministry of Transport is that while publicans and brewers have made it fashionable to meet the needs of their customers, restaurants do not.

It is estimated that 30 per cent of restaurant customers drive after their meal, but four out of five restaurants do not stock alcohol-free lager or beer.

Leading article, page 17

# Train crash inquiry launched



British Rail staff moving a carriage from one of two InterCity trains which crashed in heavy rain west of Central Station, Newcastle upon Tyne, on Wednesday night. Four people were recovering in hospital yesterday after the trains caught each other a glancing blow as they passed on adjacent tracks. Neither train was thought to be travelling above 15mph. Eleven people were hurt

and a woman aged 79 suffered shoulder and spinal injuries in a fall while being led from the scene on Wednesday night.

Mr Chris Dickason, British Rail area manager, said there were between 300 and 400 passengers. Most were forced to walk to safety along the track to the station.

A British Rail inquiry into the crash will be followed by a full Department of Transport investigation.

# Damages to rock stars

A nightclub in Windsor, Berkshire, which cancelled a week of shows by Sixties' rock stars because they did not attract the crowds, was ordered yesterday in the High Court to pay them £27,181 damages.

The owners of Blazars nightclub were also left with

an estimated £30,000 bill for costs after Dave Dee, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Titch and four other groups sued over the cancelled contract.

Mr Justice Rose ruled Adcengrove Productions had no cause for cancelling the shows, booked for March 1986.

# Christmas clampdown on Scots roads

By Kerry Gill

Motorists who venture on to the roads of Scotland after drinking will do so at their peril, according to the Association of Chief Police Officers (Scotland) whose traffic standing committee yesterday launched an anti-drink driving cam-

paign. Mr Andrew Sloan, chief constable of Strathclyde police and chairman of the committee, said that more drivers than ever before could expect to be tested over the Christmas and new year period.

The Scottish campaign, which officially begins today, will last until January 9. Dumfries and Galloway

constabulary have called on the public to report any driver who they believe may have been drinking to excess and Fifé constabulary has introduced a policy of testing every driver involved in a moving traffic offence.

The association has stopped short of calling for random tests.

# £858,000 Picasso triples its estimate

**SALEROOM**  
by Sarah Jane Checkland  
Art Market  
Correspondent

Picasso maintained his position in the limelight at Christie's on Wednesday night when his "Nature Morte aux Cartes-a-Jeu et Pecbes" fetched £858,000, nearly triple its estimate. It was a record for a twentieth-century drawing.

Produced at Avignon in 1914, when the artist was working on a series of lyrical still-lives, it comprises Cubist shapes on plain paper. It was bought by a private buyer.

The Picasso featured in a highly successful sale of 125 drawings, sculptures, prints and posters from the collection of Douglas Cooper, a connoisseur who died in 1984.

A rugged plaster of a pin-headed man by Alberto Giacometti doubled its estimate at £660,000, selling to a London dealer, while a pencil study by Fernand Leger for his painting "La Mere et L'Enfant" more than doubled its estimate at £143,000.

The sale totalled £3 million, triple what had been expected. Proceeds will finance the publication of a catalogue raisonné of the rest of the Cooper collection, as well as an operation to trace artworks stolen from Cooper's home, the Chateau de Castille in the South of France, in 1974.

Both Sotheby's and Christie's produced records for contemporary artists in

London yesterday. "A Neat Lawn", a classic Californian painting by David Hockney, fetched £352,000 at Sotheby's, overtaking his previous record 12 months ago by £90,000.

Jean Atlan, a French painter who turned to abstraction in 1947, also arrived in the big league when his "Le Tao" fetched £396,000 (£300,000 more than estimate), selling to a French private buyer. Although he had little success in Europe during his lifetime, there is a powerful group of six wealthy buyers determined to buy his work today.

Top price at Christie's contemporary sale was £418,000 (upper estimate £220,000) for the American artist Alexander Calder's "Blue Boomerang", a classic mobile. £132,000, a record and £100,000 above estimate, was achieved for a bronze by Joseph Beuys, the German artist who died in 1986.

There was disappointment at the first Impressionist and modern Australian paintings sale at Christie's, South Kensington, when the star lot - a picture by John Peter Russell of silhouetted trees overlooking a lakeside - failed to sell at £200,000 (estimate £250,000 to £300,000).

Staff blamed French officials who prevented export until last night, resulting in potential buyers not being able to view the lot.

The highest price was £132,000 for Charles Edward Conder's "On the River Yarra", painted near Heidelberg, Victoria.

## Weekend food prices

### Cost shock in store for lovers of roast beef

Lovers of roast beef could be in for a shock when they buy their joints this weekend. Topside, silverside and boneless sirloin are up 8p-13p a lb. In the South-east the average price of boneless sirloin is £1.79 a lb with a range of £2.59-£5 a lb.

Fore ribs on the bone at an average £1.85 a lb is the most economical choice as it is the same price as two weeks ago. Rump steak, which was down 10p a lb last week to £3.66 a lb is back to £3.76 this week. Boneless brisket and braising steak are down 2p a lb in the South-east and unchanged elsewhere. Best mince is up 1p-2p a lb.

Home-produced lamb prices are on an upward spiral. The average price of whole leg is £1.94 a lb in the South-east and £1.82 in the rest of England and Wales. Loin chops and whole shoulder are also up 2p a lb, but best end and chump chops should be cheaper than last week.

Whole shoulder of lamb, boned and stuffed with onions, mushrooms and herbs, will make a tasty meal for about £1 a lb. Many cuts of New Zealand lamb are a little cheaper, including leg, best end and loin chops.

Although some cuts of pork are more expensive it is still good value. There is something to suit all pockets from stuffed belly at 84p a lb to boneless loin chops or piece at about £2.08 a lb. Whole legs cost about £1.25 a lb and

boneless shoulder about £1.26 a lb. Pork marries well with apple, pineapple, orange, clementine, tangerines or satsumas which are all plentiful at this time of year.

Best meat and poultry offers in shops and supermarkets this week include: Presto fore ribs of beef £1.79 a lb; Asda pork chops (fresh or frozen) £1.19 a lb; fore ribs of beef £1.95 a lb; pack of four chicken drumsticks 99p a pack; Safeway fore ribs of beef £1.79 a lb; boneless pork chops £1.88 a lb; Tesco whole leg of New Zealand lamb £1.29 a lb and boneless rolled stuffed belly of pork 84p a lb; and Sainsbury's fresh chicken up to 3½lb in weight 62p a lb.

Potatoes at 12p-25p a lb are now the largest single source of Vitamin C in the British diet and, contrary to popular belief, they are not fattening, containing just 76 calories per 100gm.

It is the cream cheese and butter we add which does the damage to the waistline, according to the Fresh Food and Vegetables Information Bureau. Cabbages at 14p-35p and brussel tops continue to be superb. Calabrese broccoli from Spain, Italy and Jersey costs from 55p-95p a lb.

Best salad buys are Spanish and Canary Island tomatoes at 30p-55p a lb, spring onions 25p-45p a bunch and Chinese leaves 35p-65p a head. Round iceberg and red varieties of lettuce are also available.

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**Army Officer**

WORLD ROUNDUP

Swoop on Mafia in US and Italy

Washington (Reuter) - American and Italian police began arresting more than 200 people in Italy and the United States yesterday in a joint operation against Mafia drug traffickers.

The FBI said that the arrests were the culmination of a three-year under-cover operation which involved court-authorized telephone tapping, surveillance and drug purchases to collect the evidence.

Two Indians expelled

Islamabad (Reuter) - Pakistan yesterday ordered two Indian diplomats to leave the country within 24 hours, state television reported.

Rebuff for Hawke

Belgrade - Yugoslavia has rejected an Australian ultimatum for the extradition of a security guard who fired shots during a demonstration in front of the Yugoslav consulate in Sydney, injuring a boy.

The Yugoslav Government insisted that by failing to provide adequate police protection when the consulate was besieged by over 1,000 protesters the Australian authorities left guards no alternative but to fire in self-defence.

'Ivan' lawyer attack

Jerusalem - Mr Yoram Shefiel, right, the Israeli lawyer defending the convicted Nazi John Demjanjuk, had a bottle of acid thrown in his face yesterday by a man aged 70 who lost all his family at the Treblinka concentration camp (Ian Murray writes).



It was there that Demjanjuk earned notoriety as the sadistic Ukrainian guard known to inmates as "Ivan the Terrible".

Mr Shefiel was taken to hospital and it will not be known for several days whether or not he has lost the sight of his left eye.

The attack took place at the funeral of Mr Dov Eitan, the former district court judge who earlier this year agreed to work with Mr Shefiel on Demjanjuk's appeal against the death sentence passed on him by the court here last April.

Mr Eitan fell to his death from the 15th floor of an office building in the centre of Jerusalem on Tuesday. Police suspect that he jumped from the building.

Reagan honours aide

Washington - President Reagan yesterday announced that he was promoting Lieutenant-General Colin Powell, his National Security Adviser, to be a full four-star general and commander-in-chief of the US Army Forces Command at Fort McPherson, Georgia (Michael Binyon writes).

General Powell, aged 51, who will leave the White House on January 20, will have more than a million soldiers under his command at the country's largest base. The general, who was warmly praised by President Reagan yesterday, will be the only black four-star general on active service.

Ryan controversy casts shadow at Rhodes summit

Irish stoke up terrorism row

From Richard Owen, Rhodes

As Mrs Thatcher flew to Rhodes last night for the two-day EEC summit here under Greek chairmanship, European officials began a counter-attack on suggestions that Belgium and Ireland - and by implication other EEC countries - have been shown to be "soft on terrorism" in the row over extradition.

"We are getting fed up with this," one Irish official said as Mrs Thatcher prepared to meet Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, in bilateral talks this morning before the summit opens.

Mrs Thatcher will also hold separate talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany and Mr Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch Prime Minister.

"There is a limit to reasonable restraint in the face of unreasonably abuse," the Irish official added.

EEC officials expressed dismay over Britain's abstention from the United Nations vote, deploring Washington's decision to refuse a visa to Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman.

Mr Karolos Papoulias, the Greek Foreign Minister stirred further controversy by proposing in an interview with the Spanish daily El Pais that Mr Arafat should be invited to the Rhodes summit and given the platform "denied him in New York".

It was not clear whether this had the backing of Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Prime Minister and summit host, whose Government, with unfortunate timing, seems to be falling apart at the seams as the summit leaders assemble.

The leaders are meeting in the fortified Gothic castle of the Knights of St John.

Officially the summit, marking the end of the Greek presidency, is to consider

Europe's place in the world, progress at the halfway mark towards completion of the Single Market in 1992, and the need to avoid a protectionist Fortress Europe.

But because of the extradition row between Britain, Belgium and Ireland over Patrick Ryan, terrorism is the subject of corridor debate, and could well end up on the official agenda.

Some delegations said as they arrived that the Ryan case should not be allowed to overshadow the proceedings. "Who is this Ryan?" one German official demanded testily. "Twelve heads of government have not gathered to discuss one former Irish priest."

The Ryan affair has received little prominence here, particularly because Mr Papandreu's troubles have gripped public attention almost exclusively. For many Greeks, the focus of interest is the fact that Mr Papandreu's status-quo mistress, Miss Dimitra Liani, a former Olympic Airways stewardess, is to be his official companion.

None the less, Greece is as concerned as other states to prove that it is committed to the European fight against terrorism, despite allegations that Greece offers an "easy option" for terrorist activities.

Other countries also argue that their record displays a consistent determination to fight terrorism through EEC and international co-operation. Belgium pursued and caught its own terrorist group, the CCC (Fighting Communist Cells), and the ring-leaders were recently given stiff jail sentences.

Dr Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, nevertheless faces Mrs Thatcher's displeasure over Ryan. Unlike Mr Haughey, he



Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, leaving yesterday with Miss Dimitra Liani for Rhodes, where he is to host the EEC summit and she will be his official companion.

is not holding separate talks with her, though one diplomat said he would probably have preferred to "have a session in the headmistress's study and get it over with".

EEC officials acknowledge that extradition procedures between EEC countries require "considerable improvement" if cross-border co-

operation against terrorists and other criminals in 1992 is to work. But in the Ryan case, many continental officials support the Belgian and Irish contention that the British extradition requests were not properly prepared and lacked the necessary specific detail.

In an interview in the Belgian daily Le Soir yesterday, Mr Melchior Wathelet, the Belgian Justice Minister, said he respected Mrs Thatcher, but he accused her of double standards in the Ryan case. She had attacked the lack of co-operation in the EEC over terrorism but was putting on the brakes in other areas of 1992 integration.

Leading article, page 17

Moscow opens door for 120 refuseniks

By Nicholas Beeson

The Soviet authorities have told 120 Soviet refuseniks, who have been denied exit visas because of their security classification, that they are no longer classified and should reapply for emigration.

"The assumption is that they will be allowed to go once they reapply," said Mr Lawrence Littlejohn, the executive director of the National Council for Soviet Jewry.

The 120 who have been told to make fresh visa requests represent about half of the refuseniks with security clas-

sification. Mr Littlejohn added that the news was greeted as a breakthrough yesterday by delegates attending the international conference of the World Council for Soviet Jewry in Israel.

Mr Leonid Shabashov, a former employee at the Institute of Physical Chemistry, who is now a secondary school mathematics teacher in Moscow, has been waiting since 1974 for permission to leave with his family.

He was informed this week that he would be allowed to go. Observers said that the more

refuseniks told to reapply were Mr Yuli Kosharowski, the longest emigration applicant, who first put in a request to leave in March, 1971; Mr Roald Zelenchuk, a former prisoner; Mr Yergey Lein and his wife, Irina; the convener of the unofficial scientific seminar, Mr Yuri Chernitski; and Mr Vladimir Kislik, who had been detained in a psychiatric hospital.

It coincided with an announcement by the Inter-governmental Committee on Migration in Geneva yesterday which showed that Jews are leaving the Soviet Union at the highest rate since 1980.

In November 2,284 left, slightly fewer than in October, but the pace remains stronger than for most of this decade. More were allowed to leave last month than in 1983-84 or 1985-86. So far this year 16,572 Jews have been given exit visas, the most since 1980 when 21,470 left. The highest annual total was 51,330 in 1979.

Among the more prominent

refuseniks told to reapply were Mr Yuli Kosharowski, the longest emigration applicant, who first put in a request to leave in March, 1971; Mr Roald Zelenchuk, a former prisoner; Mr Yergey Lein and his wife, Irina; the convener of the unofficial scientific seminar, Mr Yuri Chernitski; and Mr Vladimir Kislik, who had been detained in a psychiatric hospital.

WASHINGTON: In a significant concession, Moscow has stopped jamming all broadcasts to the Soviet Union by the US-financed radio station Radio Liberty and by two other foreign stations (Michael Binyon writes).

The move, a week before Mr Gorbachev's US visit, brought swift praise here, and is seen as a necessary step toward the convening of a human rights conference in Moscow in 1991.

With the end of jamming of the Munich-based station, Israel Radio and Deutsche Welle, the West German overseas transmissions, the Soviet Union has now ended interference with all foreign broadcasts for the first time since the early 1950s.

Jamming of the BBC, re-imposed in 1980 as the Polish crisis escalated, was lifted in January, 1987, and the Voice of America was allowed through unimpeded in May, 1987.

The White House said that it welcomed the Soviet action as a positive development which it hoped was permanent. The statement said that the free flow of information was the cornerstone of the US human rights policy, and President Reagan had repeatedly raised the issue at summit meetings with Mr Gorbachev.

Arabs in UN bid to woo Britain

From James Bone, New York

Arab states at the United Nations have phrased their proposal to shift the General Assembly to Geneva in order to hear Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, in language that makes it likely that Britain will support the move.

The British recorded the sole abstention on Tuesday night when the assembly voted 151-2 to urge the United States to reverse its decision to withhold a visa from Mr Arafat and so bar him from travelling to New York to address the annual UN debate on Palestine. Britain objected in a paragraph which "deplored" the US action.

But in its proposed follow-up resolution the Arab group at the UN is expected to request the assembly to reconvene in Geneva on December 13-15 in purely technical language. An informal draft has been circulated.

The two-paragraph resolution will simply refer to the vote to deplore the US action, and ask the assembly to relocate the debate on Palestine, which was to have taken place in New York yesterday, but was postponed after Washington refused Mr Arafat a visa on the ground of his association with Palestinian terrorism.

The US has said it does not oppose the General Assembly moving outside New York, and will abstain in the vote.

The resolution that was passed required the UN Secretary-General to report any new developments to the General Assembly by last night. Arab delegations, however, held out little hope yesterday that the American decision would be reversed.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, reiterated in a satellite press conference on Wednesday that he would not change his mind. He said: "If the thing I am remembered for most is a strong and great resolve to resist and combat terrorism, I won't feel that is a blot on my record. I'll feel that is a proud achievement."

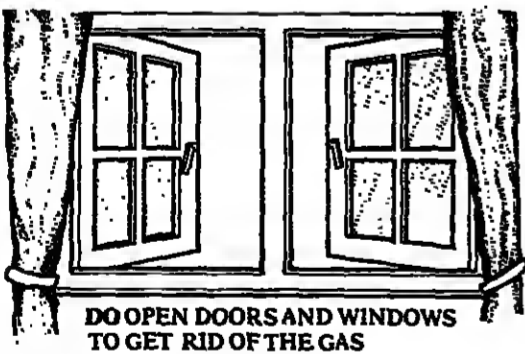
If the US does not change its decision, the Arab states will ask the assembly to approve their proposal to hold the Palestine debate in Geneva.

Mr Abdullah Salah of Jordan, the chairman of the Arab group, hopes to have the General Assembly vote on the proposal today. But UN officials say that procedural requirements are likely to delay the historic decision at least until Monday.

Because the move has financial implications, the draft resolution has to be reviewed by an internal budgetary board which will then report to a full committee of the assembly. That committee will then adapt the text to be approved by the body.

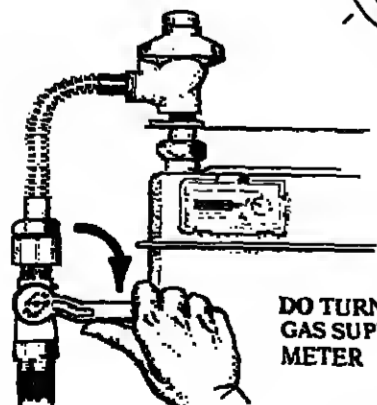
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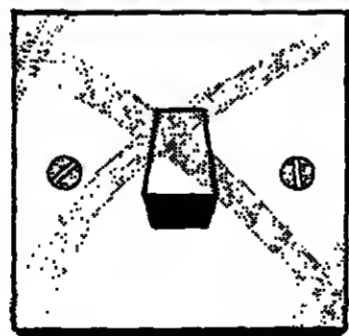


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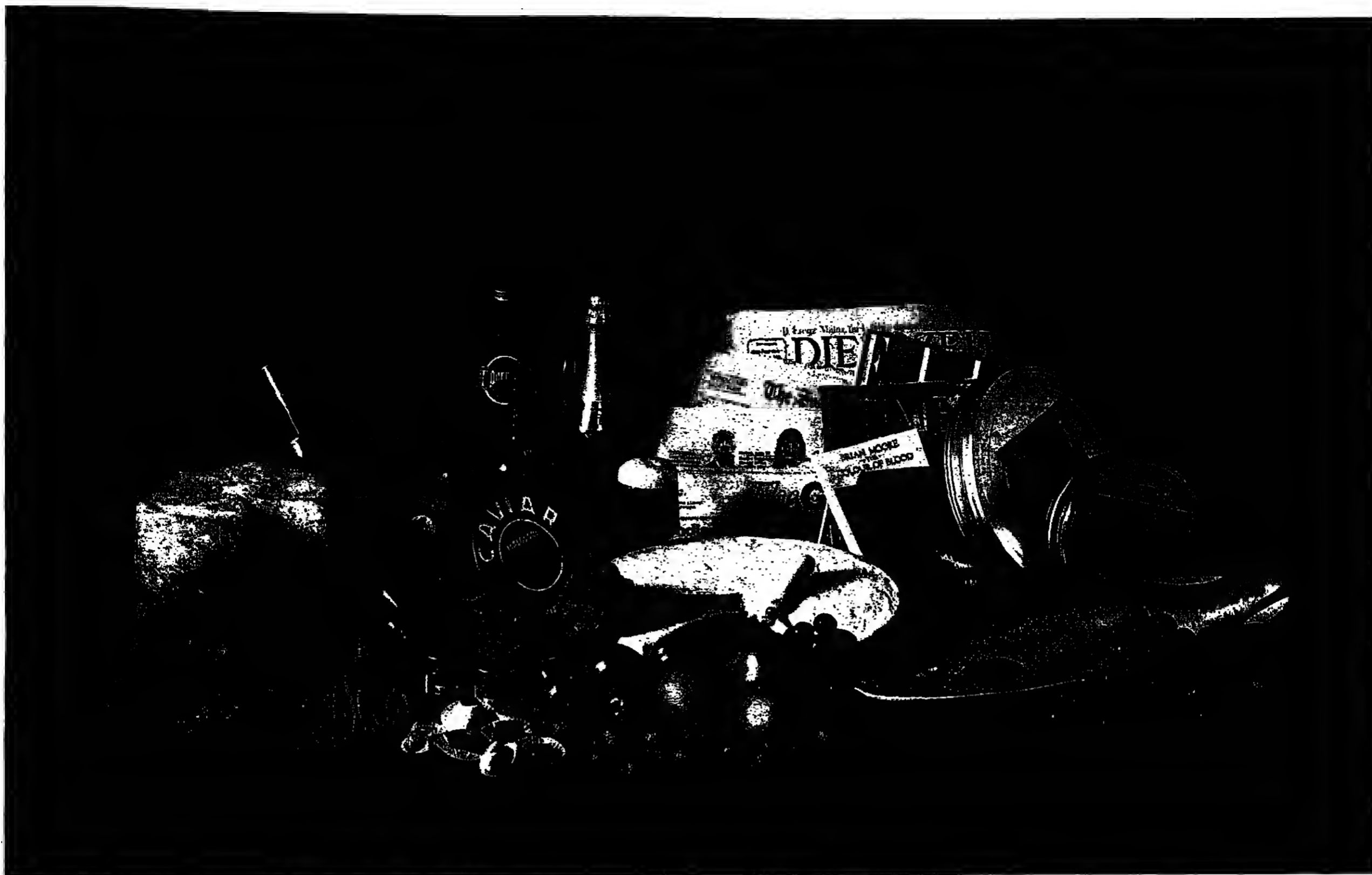
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**QANTAS**

# Europe rebuts US accusations over Nato defence costs

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

Nato defence ministers yesterday unveiled their long-awaited response to US congressional criticisms that the European allies are not shouldering their fair share of defence costs.

In an 80-page document analysing the defence spending record of Nato's European members, drawn up in an attempt to dampen the smouldering row between the US and Europe over how the defence burden of the alliance should be divided, its European members strenuously defended their past record.

The report, *Enhancing Alliance Collective Security*, argues that, while defence spending has not been as high as the US would like, some European member states have nevertheless had to shoulder additional burdens, such as conscription and hosting military exercises, not easily quantifiable in hard cash.

This is particularly acute for West Germany, which already hosts an average of 5,000 Nato exercises annually, in the face of public criticism, particularly over low-level flights.

But the report, in an attempt to appease congress-

sional critics, does acknowledge an urgent need for European member states to enhance resources and improve efficiency in order to obtain increased mileage from the existing funds.

Although the report does not mention by name those Nato members which have failed to reach the recommended defence spending of 3 per cent of gross domestic product, the report's figures clearly show that Denmark, Italy, Spain, Luxembourg and Canada have consistently failed to reach the target.

General Wolfgang Altenburg, the chairman of Nato's military committee, who presided over the release of the report, announced that defence ministers had agreed to set up two working parties.

These would look into the feasibility of establishing a multinational airborne division, and examine the extra burden being shouldered by Bonn.

The proposed airborne division, an idea favoured by the West German Defence Ministry, would be drawn

from West German, British, Belgian and Dutch forces, and would become part of Nato's operational reserve.

It would act as a frontline "air cavalry" force against the Warsaw Pact. The working party is expected to report back to defence ministers in one year.

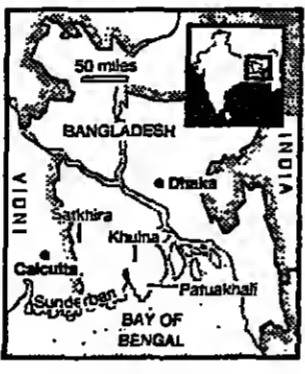
Ministers hope that the creation of the division will help to defuse congressional criticism over the vexed issue of burden-sharing, which is expected to become one of the key transatlantic issues when the new US Administration takes office in the new year.

The Allies have already agreed to pay part of the cost of transferring 72 US F16 fighter-bombers from Spain to Italy, projected at more than £174 million, which is expected to take place by the early 1990s.

● **BONN:** Chancellor Kohl told the Bundestag yesterday that, although East-West German relations had improved, they were burdened by the East German Government's inflexibility on reform efforts as well as violations of human rights.



A mother grieving for her 10-year-old child who was among those killed by the hurricane at Khulna in southern Bangladesh.



## Millions homeless in Bangladesh

Dhaka — More than seven million people have been made homeless and probably thousands were killed by Tuesday's hurricane which left a trail of destruction, misery and death on the alluvial plains of southern Bangladesh, officials said yesterday (Ahmed Fazl writes).

Rescue workers looking for survivors in the districts of Satkhira, Khulna and Patuakhali, which bore the brunt of the storm, said mangled bodies littered a landscape of devastation on the Bay of Bengal coast. Red Crescent volunteers recovered the

bodies of more than 950 victims, mostly crushed under uprooted trees and power lines and flattened houses.

Senior relief ministry officials said 20,000 people were still missing yesterday from coastal villages fringing the Sundarban mangrove forests and outlying islands. Hopes for their return were fading, they said.

"We have yet to make contact with Dublar Char (island) where at least 8,000 fishermen have been trapped since Monday," Kazi Feroz Rashid, State Minister for Relief, said.

## Temporary reprieve for killers of Gandhi

Delhi (AP) — The Indian Supreme Court yesterday blocked the executions of two Sikhs condemned to death for the 1984 assassination of Mrs Indira Gandhi.

The decision, on a request by a son of one of the condemned men, came 14 hours before Satwant Singh, aged 30, and Kehar Singh, aged 54, were to hang.

The stay will remain in effect until Tuesday to give the panel of five Supreme Court justices time to hear an appeal by Kehar Singh's son, challenging President Venkatarman's refusal last week to grant clemency without reviewing the merits of the case, it was reported.

The decision came just hours after the justices rejected defence lawyers' positions in the Supreme Court and the Delhi High Court seeking to block the hangings, which had been scheduled for 8 am today.

Relatives who briefly visited the prison before the decision yesterday described the two men as calm and resigned to their fate.

Security in the capital and the neighbouring state of Punjab had been stepped up for fear Sikh militants would carry out new violence if the men were executed.

### Sino-Soviet détente

## Chinese visit sets scene for summit

From Our Correspondent, Moscow

Mr Qian Qichen arrived here yesterday for the first visit to the Soviet Union by a Chinese Foreign Minister in more than 30 years.

The minister, who is to meet President Gorbachov today, is in Moscow to prepare for a Sino-Soviet summit that would seal the reconciliation between the two communist giants which split for ideological and geostrategic reasons in the 1960s.

Mr Qian, who speaks fluent Russian, said in a written arrival statement that he hoped to continue progress on resolving the Cambodian conflict during this three rounds of negotiations with Mr

current visit. It is generally assumed that Mr Gorbachov will travel to Peking in the first half of next year.

Mr Qian left Peking saying a concrete timetable for a Vietnamese withdrawal from Cambodia was still an outstanding problem.

Mr Rogachev, asked what more Moscow could do to put pressure on the Vietnamese to accelerate their withdrawal, said: "Nothing more." The deputy minister, who has just returned from a tour of Indo-China, said that the pull-out of the estimated 120,000 Vietnamese soldiers "depends on Vietnam".

But he added that, concerning the Soviet and Chinese positions on Cambodia, "every time, we get closer".

The Chinese want the Vietnamese to have completed their withdrawal from Cambodia by the end of next June at the latest. The Kremlin, for its part, wants China to use its influence with the Khmer Rouge, the main military faction in the Cambodian resistance alliance.

Mr Shevardnadze also indicated that Afghanistan would be on the agenda of the current talks.

● **PEKING:** Mr Qian said before leaving for Moscow that his task was "to promote the process of normalization between the two countries" (Catherine Sampson writes).

He said at Peking airport that the focus of his discussions would be the Cambodian issue, but he implied that whatever the progress on Cambodia, the wheels were already in motion for a summit.

He reiterated the Chinese proposal that Vietnamese troops, backed by Moscow, should withdraw from Cambodia by the end of next June. He acknowledged continuing differences on the issue, but said both China and the Soviet Union had made it clear that they were willing to work to bring about an end to the 10-year conflict.



Mr Qian speaking at Peking airport yesterday.

Eduard Shevardnadze, his Soviet counterpart.

"What is gratifying to us is the gradual improvement in Sino-Soviet relations in recent years," he said. "I sincerely hope that my current visit will achieve its desired result."

Mr Shevardnadze noted the "new quality" of bilateral relations in a short conversation with reporters before Mr Qian's regular China Air Lines flight touched down.

The Soviet minister declined to give a date for his scheduled visit to Peking, and also refused to say when President Gorbachov was likely to travel to China. But the Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Igor Rogachev, indicated that a summit date could be announced at the end of the

## Art thief repents

New York (AP) — An Impressionist painting worth more than \$1 million (£546,000) that was stolen last weekend from the Heckscher Museum was recovered in New York City when a tearful thief telephoned police to confess his possession of Edouard Manet's "Bouquet of Peonies". But the thief was not remorseful enough to give himself up, although he directed police to the painting hidden in a laundry room in a block of flats in the Borough of Queens. The 1880 Manet is a still life of flowers in a vase lent to the Heckscher by its anonymous owner.

## US bases deal Hostage offer

Madrid (AP) — Spain and the US signed an eight-year defence agreement that stipulates the withdrawal of 72 F16 fighter-bombers but guarantees continued use of bases.

Lyons — A French grandmother, Mme Brigitte Valente, offered herself as a hostage to a Palestinian group for her daughter, Jacqueline, and three baby girls seized from a yacht 13 months ago.

## Back to prison

Santo Domingo (Reuters) — A former Dominican President, Señor Salvador Blanco, sentenced in absentia to 20 years for corruption, was jailed on returning from the US.

## Dali better

Barcelona (AP) — Doctors said the Surrealist painter Salvador Dali, aged 84, had slightly improved despite heart trouble aggravated by blood clots in the left lung.

## Short terms

Quito (Reuters) — President Borja of Ecuador has reduced the sentences of paratroops jailed for kidnapping his predecessor, Señor León Febres Cordero, last year.

## Full treatment

Rawson, Argentina (AFP) — An armed robber disguised as a doctor tried to rob a hospital payroll, but was overpowered by a nurse who knew judo.

## Spanish riot

Madrid (Reuters) — Youths clashed with police as thousands of teenagers protested against economic policies.

## Mine blast

Hong Kong (AP) — A gas explosion in a coalmine in north-east China killed 45 workers and injured 23.

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Dying and heroic

London



# Japanese minister hints at quitting in share scandal

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

A senior Cabinet minister has indicated he may resign because of his links with the share profiteering scandal that is rocking the Japanese Government.

Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, hinted strongly yesterday that he was ready to go if it would quicken the passage through Parliament of crucial tax reforms on which Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Prime Minister, has staked his own political future.

The sacrificial hint came after Mr Miyazawa had testified falteringly before a parliamentary committee investigating how leading politicians, aides and businessmen were offered privileged access to shares in the Recruit Cosmos real estate company. The value of the shares swelled when they were later listed on the stock market.

Although aides to Mr Takeshita and to his predecessor, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, were among those favoured by the company (aides are the traditional middlemen in Japan for channelling funds to MPs), Mr Miyazawa was the only Minister whose name appeared on the list of stock recipients. He says he is innocent and has not benefited from the deals.

So far no one has suggested

any crime was committed, rather that MPs and bureaucrats compromised themselves by accepting favours from Mr Hironaka Ezoe, the former chairman of the company.

However, Tokyo public prosecutors are investigating the case and some of the deals may have broken stock exchange rules.

What political fall-out further revelations might have in Japan is difficult to guess. Mr Kakuei Tanaka, the former Prime Minister who was accused of taking bribes from

business and politics, find the suggestion laughable. The costs of being a politician in Japan, like the cost of everything, is astronomical, and the Japanese know how most of their representatives resolve the dilemma. What has jolted them are revelations that top civil servants — who are expected to keep their palms ungreased, if only because they are often more influential than ministers — have taken the company's money, too.

The noose around Mr Miyazawa's neck tightened yesterday when, under questioning from opposition MPs, he substantially revised the story of how he got involved in the mess. It was not the first time he had retold the tale, each new explanation forced out by the pace of events rather than by any transparent urge to clear the mystery and his name.

Each time the blame was vested in his aide, Mr Tsuneo Hattori. Mr Hattori at first could not remember what had happened at all; then he

recalled that he had allowed a business associate to use his boss's name to buy the shares; now Mr Hattori remembers that he bought all the shares for himself, although he has misplaced the transaction certificates.

The Finance Minister, who is aged 69 and appears to have realized that his dream of becoming Prime Minister is over, has decided to make the best of the mess by offering himself as a bargaining chip. He says all he wants is to steer through the overhaul of Japan's tax structure and that he is "ready to step down if this issue is considered a hindrance to the passage of the tax reform Bills. That is my only concern, and therefore I have no intention of clinging to my present Cabinet position."

But Mr Miyazawa, as Finance Minister, is the chief sponsor of the tax legislation. It is for him now could derail the already tight legislative timetable for passage of the controversial tax Bills. Also, such a blatant confession of guilt might rekindle the opposition's flagging zeal for the scandal.

It may be Mr Takeshita's intention to keep the ship afloat until the end of the year, when he was planning to shuffle his Cabinet anyway.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, was flying in shortly before the ceremony as observers mused whether he might bump into, or try to avoid, Presidents Castro and Ortega (Phil Davison writes).

# Brothers in arms meet in Mexico



President Castro of Cuba being embraced by his Nicaraguan counterpart, Señor Daniel Ortega, in Mexico City yesterday, where the two were attending a reception for international leaders during the inauguration of Señor Carlos Salinas de Gortari as President of Mexico for a six-year term.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, was flying in shortly before the ceremony as observers mused whether he might bump into, or try to avoid, Presidents Castro and Ortega (Phil Davison writes).

It was President Castro who stole the show from the moment he arrived on Wednesday evening. Still walking ramrod straight in his usual fatigues and

towering above the Mexicans there to welcome him, he was returning to the city where he lived and planned his revolution before sailing for Cuba 32 years ago.

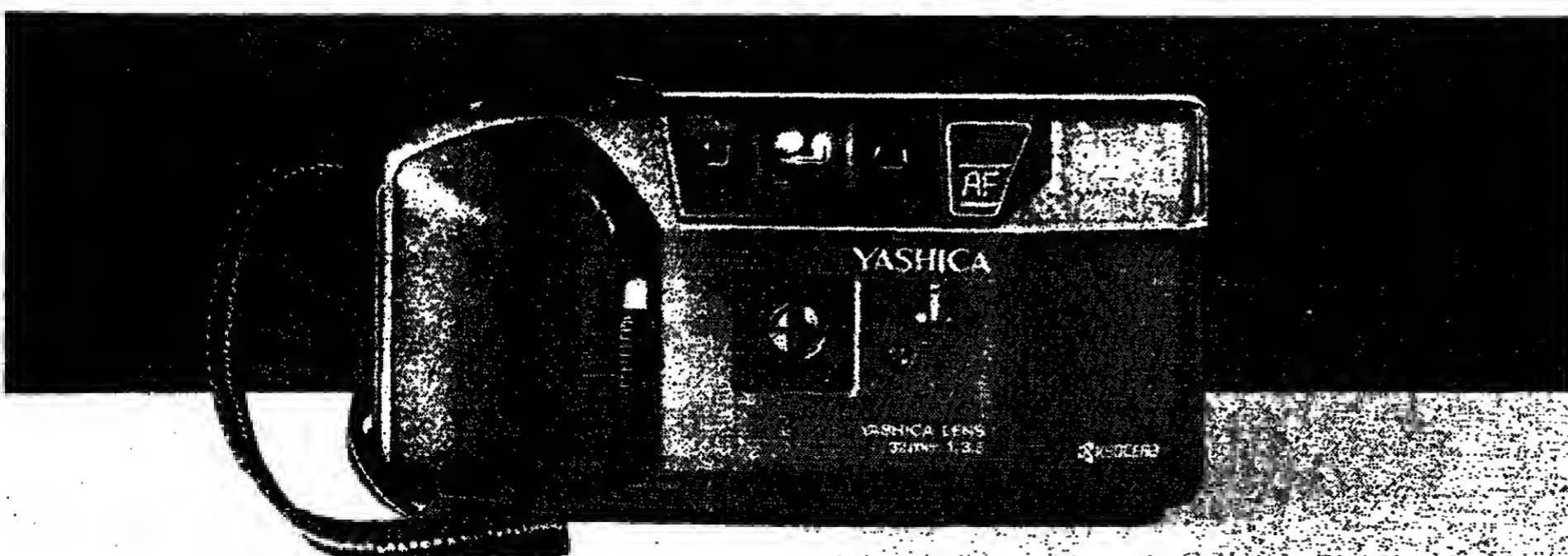
There was widespread criticism in Mexico from right-wing opposition and business circles over the invitation extended to the Cuban and Nicaraguan leaders. Some business chiefs said that this sent a bad signal to Mexico's key Western trading partners and creditors.

On the other hand, left-wingers were surprised that President Castro had accepted an invitation to the inauguration of what they see as an illegal leader, who they say was "imposed" through massive electoral fraud in July.

President Salinas gave some solid clues about his plans when he announced his Cabinet on Wednesday night, appointing a respected banker, Señor Fernando Solana Morales, as Foreign Minister, and Señor Fernando Gutiérrez Barrios as Interior Minister. Other key ministers include:

Defence Señor Antonio Riviello Bazán; Finance and Public Credit Señor Pedro Aspe Armella; Planning and Budget Señor Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León; Commerce and Industrial Development Señor Jaime Serra Puche; Agriculture and Water Resources Señor Jorge de la Vega Domínguez; Communication and Transport Señor Andrés Caso Lombardo; Public Education Señor Manuel Bartlett Díaz; Health Señor Jesús Kumate Rodríguez.

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## Conflict in Malaysia Judicial reshuffle test for Mahathir

From M.G.G. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

The appointment of Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Omar, the Chief Justice, as the new Lord President of the Malaysian Supreme Court, has provided another test of wills between Malaysia's nine hereditary rulers and Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister.

Tan Sri Hamid was appointed after informal negotiations during the Conference of Rulers in Kuala Lumpur last month, but for a term limited to three years. He is aged 59 and normally could have been expected to be in office until he was 65.

Informed sources said that Tan Sri Hamid had the support of six rulers, but to get a consensus they agreed to a three-year term.

Tan Sri Hamid was chairman of the judicial tribunal that dismissed his predecessor as Lord President, Tun Salleh Abas, and it was he who brought the charges against five Supreme Court judges who also faced dismissal at a judicial tribunal. Two of them were dismissed.

Appointments to the judiciary have to be referred to the rulers, who have vetoed or delayed appointments in the past. A woman judge had to wait for nearly two years for her appointment because the rulers felt that a woman should not impose the death

sentence. She was eventually appointed on condition that she was not assigned to the criminal division.

Datuk Seri Mahathir could not get the rulers to agree to the appointment of Tan Sri Abu Talib Osman, the Attorney General, as Chief Justice. The Attorney General's role in the action against Tun Salleh and the five judges was not viewed kindly by the rulers or by the Bar Council.

An official statement said that the Chief Justice would be appointed by the new Lord President. But the appointment of Tan Sri Hashim Yeop Sani as acting Chief Justice would make it difficult to appoint the Attorney General.

The Conference of Rulers also decided in informal discussions that the Sultan of Perak, who was Tun Salleh's predecessor as Lord President, would succeed the Sultan of Johore as Malaysia's King for five years next April. There had been some doubt that he would be elected, but tradition prevailed and five other rulers supported him.

The King is elected every five years by the rulers, in rotation and by seniority. Since independence, no ruler who has wanted to be king has been denied it, although at least one was discreetly persuaded not to stand.



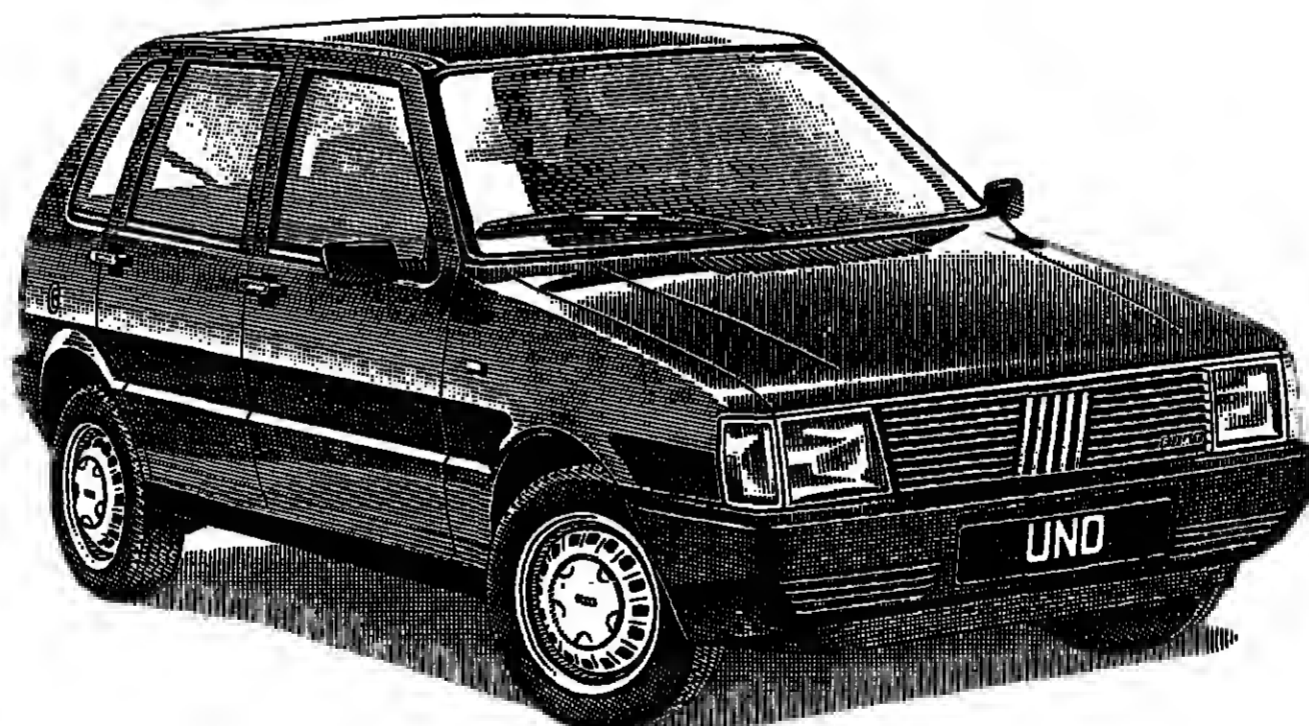
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# Dying and deserted

Four years ago the world's worst industrial accident killed 3,000 people and left 26,000 seriously ill in the Indian city of Bhopal. Why has compensation still not been paid? Edward Gorman reports

There can be few more moving memorials to the dead — and, in this case, to those who are still dying — than the simple concrete figure opposite the ghost-like shell of the Union Carbide pesticide plant.

It is of a peasant woman, her head thrown back in agony with one hand clamped over her burning eyes, the other grasping the lifeless form of her dead child. She is in the act of running, facing away from the factory towards the shanties or *jhuggis* which line the road opposite the plant where so many of the victims of the deadly methyl isocyanate gas were poisoned to death on the night of December 2, 1984.

Like so many in their terror that night, she is making the fatal, if understandable, mistake of running downwind of Union Carbide towards the city where the lethal contents of Tank 610 was concentrating in the chilly and damp mid-night air.

The inscription on the rough plinth which the slum dwellers sweep and clean reverently every morning reads: "No Hiroshima. No Bhopal. We Want to Live". In a note underneath, sculptors Ruth Waterman and Sanjay Mitra described their memorial as dedicated "... to the victims of the gas disaster caused by the multinational killer Union Carbide..."

Today, four years after the world's worst industrial accident, when contamination of an underground tank caused a runaway reaction, sending a deadly acid white-yellow mist over the city,

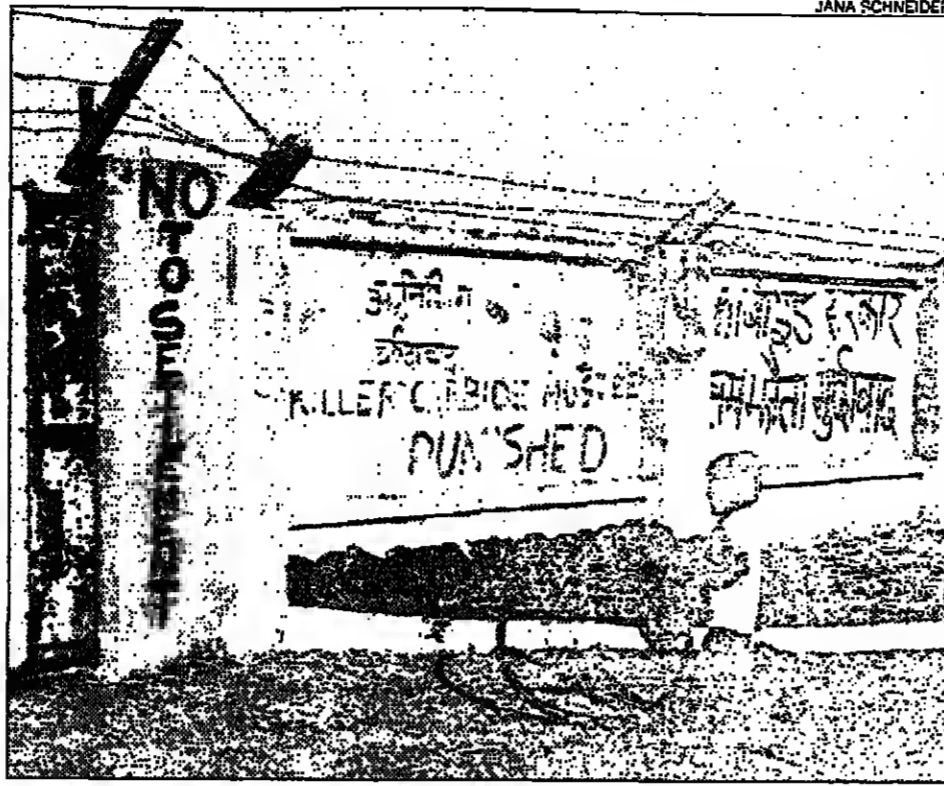
which to date has killed more than 3,000 people, the American-owned factory is deserted.

The huge storage tanks have grown rusty in disuse and the spaghetti-like confection of green-orange pipes are home to flocks of birds which swirl and settle on the lifeless structure. Along the outside wall, topped with barbed wire, the people of Bhopal have daubed the slogans of anger and revenge. "Killer Carbide must be punished," reads one. Another says the company must be forced to pay interim compensation to the victims, while a third blames the Indian government for failing to provide proper medical care for the estimated 26,000 people who remain chronically ill.

On the main gate, bracketed by the words "Killer Carbide", a ghoulish face in black paint stares out with dollar signs for eyes and jail bars for teeth. The locals, proud of the display, stand willingly for photographers on what has become an annual pilgrimage to this blighted city.

In the ramshackle huts — the worst affected area, where more than 1,000 people died that night — it is not hard to find victims of the disaster. Sixteen-year-old Sunil lost his mother and father, two brothers and three sisters. He is now the head of the family with responsibility for his two-room shack, his four-year old brother Sanjay and his 14-year-old sister Memta.

Sunil survived because in the panic he ran upwind of the gas while most of his family ran the other way. He has since received 60,000 rupees



Death factory: a child playing outside Union Carbide in Bhopal and (right) the daubed gates

(about £2,400) in assistance from the government which, he says, has been deposited in a bank and earns him an income of 500 rupees (£20 a month).

"We have sued, but there is the problem of school and clothing," he says through an interpreter. "It is very difficult

for us to survive on this money." After four years of waiting for compensation, Sunil has virtually given up hope of ever seeing the money so long promised to him. "I think it will take at least four or five years more. We shall get the money if the government wins the case. But I fear

the government will lose it."

Sunil has formed his own pressure group among children in the *jhuggis*, called "Children Against Carbide". His procession cum demonstration will be one of a number in the city today, marking the fourth anniversary of the disaster.

According to Indian government figures, 3,323 people have died from the effects of the gas, with a further 26,000 chronically sick and more than 500,000 affected overall. Most of the injured are suffering from the effects of lung damage. The methyl isocyanate or MIC burned the surface of the lungs, which has now healed as scar tissue incapable of absorbing oxygen. In mild cases this causes a shortness of breath; in the chronic, an inability to perform even the most simple tasks.

Dr M.P. Dwivedi, who is researching the effects of the gas, says the cellular make-up of the fluid in the lungs has also been damaged. He compares the deteriorating effects of this to the symptoms of a lifelong and very heavy cigarette smoker. "As time passes by it is hoped the problems will be reduced, but other chronic symptoms may still arise," he warns. "I think many of the victims will have to be watched for a very long time — perhaps for as long as 20 or 25 years."

Other disorders include damage to the eyes, which has reduced fine vision; gastrointestinal and muscular problems; fatigue and neurotic disorders, which Dr Dwivedi describes as feelings of insecurity, an inability to concentrate and recurring nightmares.

It is, of course, utterly reprehensible that four years after the disaster the combined power of the Indian government and what was once one of the world's wealthiest and biggest multinational companies have failed to provide the desperately poor of Bhopal with adequate compensation.

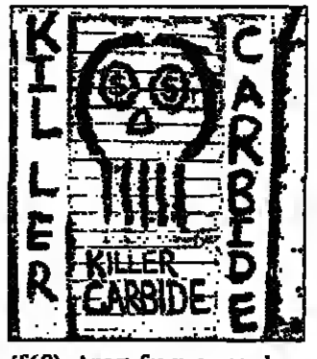
So far, families of the dead have received a one-off payment from the government of 10,000 rupees (about £400) for each member lost and those with family members injured have received 1,500 rupees

lessness. The sense of betrayal is particularly hard-felt among the hut dwellers, whose dreams of a new life were ruthlessly exploited in the first weeks after the disaster by American lawyers who swooped on the city, signing up clients and promising that millions of dollars in damages were just around the corner.

What anger remains is directed as much at the national government as at Union Carbide. Many victims and independent critics believe New Delhi is exploiting the case for political advantage, has unnecessarily delayed the legal proceedings, and should have accepted an out-of-court offer of \$650 million (£336 million) by the company last October.

There is also the widespread and understandable fear that even if the government does win substantial damages, corruption, inefficiency and mismanagement — traditional features of Indian life — will prevent most of the money reaching those who need it.

All of this is cold comfort for the victims in the slums, like railway worker Rafiq Ahmad, who was seriously ill for two years, has difficulty with breathing and suffers from memory loss. "I don't think we will ever get the money," he says bitterly. "We are angry with the government because they are feeding politically from this tragedy."



(£60). Apart from a year-long free ration programme which was ended abruptly in January 1986, a few small-scale employment schemes and free hospital treatment, the victims have received virtually nothing.

The delay has fuelled anger and resentment here which in recent months has turned to apathy and a feeling of hope-

## Legal toons

A blockbuster new film, *Who Framed Judge Cassel*, seeks to blend the two-dimensional cartoon characters of Britain's best-loved judges with real three-dimensional human beings but, writes our film critic, Craig de Brough, the mix is not always convincing.



CRAIG BROWN

These larger-than-life figures, who tend to play every scene for laughs, overshadow the normal human beings they are placed above, thus distracting the viewer from an understanding of their very real plight. No amount of ingenuity can convince the viewer that the "judges", with their floppy ears, red noses and outrageous "guises", could ever really be given positions of responsibility in everyday life.

The main cartoon "judge", Harold Cassel, has been an animated mainstay of many comic cartoon courtroom classics for years. Some believed that his heyday as a courtroom funster — best-known for the wackiness of his judgments, his off-the-cuff jests and his under-the-wig antics — was long past, but now he is experiencing a second wind as High Court Joker No. 1.

*Who Framed Judge Cassel* features Britain's most colourful cartoon "judges" in their best-loved capers, drawn from the last 40 years of high jinks in the High Court. Among those featured are Lord Justice Bertram Boop ("What is a mini-skirt?"), Mr Justice Dumbo ("You freely admit that you are a woman, yet you complain that you were raped"), the honourable Mr Justice Tweed E. Pie ("Mr Haigh, you acted as any full-blooded male might properly have acted, and I share your outrage that the water board should have allowed acid to trickle into your otherwise scrupulously maintained bath").

"Welcome to the rosy world of the great British courtroom," runs the advert-

ing trailer for the movie, "where your wildest nightmares come true!" The movie shows how real human beings become pawns in the hands of a gang of cartoon "judges" who insist on playing everything for a giggle. "Cassel as a judge extends his sympathy to the offender and condemns the victim!" the trailer continues. "In this madcap world, anything can happen — and usually does!"

If the average Briton were asked to name a set of people in public life whose word he would not take seriously, he would probably answer "professional comedians". Yet in an expensive series of full-page advertisements, the Health Education Authority has assembled a list of names of people calling for "a sustained and long-term programme of education" to combat Aids, the largest category consisting of third-rate comedians. Aside from the odd cleric and out-of-office MP, the list could be drawn from a *Variety* directory of this season's most off-putting pantomimes. Tim Brooke-Taylor, Wendy Craig, Leslie Crowther, Paul Daniels, Matthew Kelly, Paul Nicholas, Bill Oddie and Denis Norden all feature.

Presumably, the Health Education Council thinks itself very up-to-the-minute for inviting these weary old comedians to sign their "Aids Charter", but most people will view the decision as simply perverse. The effect will be similar to asking weighty figures to advertise lightweight products. Will we soon see Sir Isaiah Berlin test-driving a Renault, or Sir William Golding declaring that "the Milky Bars are on me", or Dame Iris Murdoch cooing over the "bluie-whiteness" of her husband's rigger shorts? If the Health Education Council manages to extend its advertising empire, this now seems more than likely.

TOMORROW

The winners of the Question Time and Glenfiddich competitions are announced in the Review section tomorrow

12 years ago we put down some scotch for you. Hopefully you can afford it by now.

Johnnie BLACK

TIMES DIARY SHEILA GUNN

I could happen only in the Lords. Tory and Labour MPs never see their two chief whips thrashing it out at the dispatch booth...

The debate is timely. Labour peers are due in carpet the party's deputy leader, Roy Hattersley, to make clear their resentment of Labour's continuing commitment to abolishing their office...

Hattersley is an admitted abolitionist, but is showing signs of shifting nearer to Neil Kinnock's instincts for a two-chamber system...

Both the Tory and Labour parties are facing a shake-up in their erudite and exclusive band of Scots legal experts at Westminster...

Labour also lost their Lords' man - Lord Morton - in the Scottish bench. The Prime Minister has agreed to give them a top Scottish QC...

Without the need to subject themselves to regular re-election the peers persist with their campaigns through the years - as Nicholas Ridley will find in his cost...

The inquiry falls under the auspices of the Lords science and technology select committee, a highly influential group that has a habit of spotting weaknesses in government policy...

BARRY FANTONI



'I've heard it called some things in my time, dearie, but an environmental hazard's a new one on me'

Ministers can be assured that peers, even when roused, rarely resort to physical violence. Not so in the Commons. First it was Ron Brown with the Mace...

Peers, who will have first shot at the football ID card Bill, are as sceptical as their colleagues in the other place about its efficacy and possible side-effects...

This weekend, at Rhodes, there meets a body called the European Council. There is no formal agenda, but everyone knows that the assembled EEC prime ministers and presidents can hardly avoid another round of Mrs T v. The Rest...

Yet she should welcome it, not fear it. The European movement was born in the cold war. If we are now entering a period of world détente, the existing economic great powers - the US, the USSR, Japan - face excellent prospects...

That is itself is not surprising, it has never been among my favourites, and practically everything to it is said much better either in Parsifal or in Act Two of Götterdämmerung...

I sat down on the sofa, and contemplated my past life. Had I just been put under a spell by a wizard? Before I could test the theory I was swamped with half a Klüffel of operas I had done with for ever...

Every real work of art is inchoate; that is indeed the way you know a real work of art from an imitation. But the pleasure I have had from opera for over 40 years of assiduous attendance is such that it had blighted me - or deafened me - to the truth...

Edwina Currie says that we must "at all costs avoid" the situation that has arisen in some American cities, where severely mentally ill people are discharged from hospital and left on the streets...

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

A void called mental care

gested that while closing the expensive hospitals was an attractive proposition for any government, no one seemed to be directly, formally and legally responsible for funding the community facilities...

These, indeed, are the lucky ones. Many end up in prison. For several years now the prison service has been lamenting the fact that it has been obliged to accept an increasing number of mentally disturbed offenders...

Robin Marris on the financial union essential to Europe's future

Why E-Day must come

Inevitably this will mean other countries moving generally from surpluses to deficits on their foreign trade, and this will hit some countries harder than others, especially in Europe...

replace the entire European money supply, converted at rates determined by previous negotiation. Far post "E-Day" currency confidence to survive, the conversion rates in new Ecus must be fixed at levels to minimize economic disruption...

There are probably less than a billion units of negotiable financial assets actually denominated in the Ecu (European Currency Unit) accounting unit of the European monetary system...

So Europe will need a tax structure that is not only unfair, but of the right kind. Here is the problem. With its macroeconomic sovereignty a country gives up a large slice of its political sovereignty...

Bernard Levin

The expurgated opera lover

It all began with Lohengrin in July, when I emerged with a very curious feeling. It had not been a particularly good performance, though it was far from a disaster...

And, of course, there is the upside to consider. After all, I am not going to reduce my overall operatic intake, for every Bohème I don't see, I can tuck another Hoffmann under my belt...

And, of course, there is the upside to consider. After all, I am not going to reduce my overall operatic intake, for every Bohème I don't see, I can tuck another Hoffmann under my belt...

greater depths in the chamber music of Mozart and Schubert. I find also such depths in those operas which can truly be classified sub specie aeternitatis...



another production of Khovanshchina to feast my ears and mind and soul on? It is the strangest of the arts, opera, is it not? But its very form, which simultaneously demands two kinds of the suspension of disbelief...

Cappriccio is not in the very greatest category; put Tristan beside it and it strives to nothing. But they also serve, these almost-masterpieces, and this one, because it is explicit about the art that made it, somehow sums up and defines the entire genre...

It is because what happens at that moment is the most intense artistic experience it is possible to have, that I have forsaken the company of those works which, for all their beauty and interest, fail the highest test...

Present Aspect of St Helena. The following is an extract from a letter written on board the Astrolabe, the 9th of September 1821. We cast anchor at St. Helena on the 7th of this month...

ON THIS DAY 1840

Napoleon died on St Helena on May 5th, 1821, and was buried there. In 1840 his remains were removed and buried under the dome in the Invalides in Paris.

PRESENT ASPECT OF ST HELENA

The following is an extract from a letter written on board the Astrolabe, the 9th of September 1821. We cast anchor at St. Helena on the 7th of this month. The entire island was in a state of great excitement for the expected arrival of the French ships of war which are destined to remove from amongst them the remains of their illustrious captive...









IF AIDS ONLY  
 AFFECTS 0.002% OF  
 THE POPULATION  
 WHY IS THIS  
 ADVERTISEMENT  
 APPEARING  
 IN EVERY NATIONAL  
 DAILY NEWSPAPER?

The number of people with AIDS, although still quite small, is growing all the time.

Not only among homosexuals and drug misusers but throughout the whole community.

Over 1,000 people have died of AIDS in the UK. Almost another 1,000 have it now. However, for every person with AIDS it is estimated that there are thirty with HIV, the virus that leads to AIDS.

It is possible for a person to be infected with HIV

for several years before any signs or symptoms develop.

During this time they may look and feel perfectly healthy.

But, through sexual intercourse, they can pass on this virus to other people. (Who, in turn, can infect others.)

Obviously the more people you sleep with the more chance you have of becoming infected.

But safer sex doesn't just mean fewer sexual

partners. It also means using a condom, or even having sex that avoids penetration.

There is no cure for HIV. (As with other viruses it is quite possible that there never will be.)

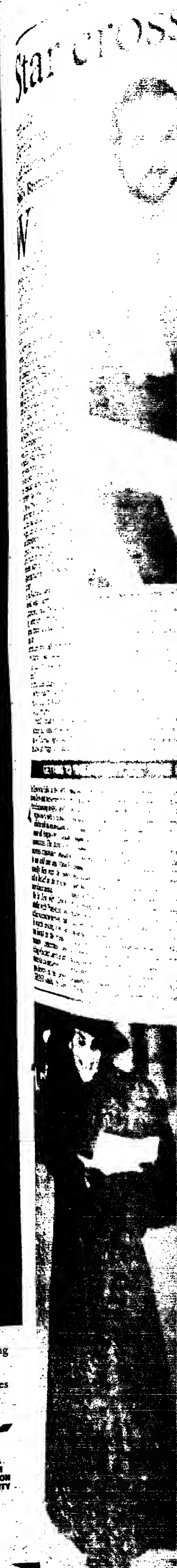
AIDS therefore has the potential to be the greatest epidemic the world has known.

And while it may still only affect a few people, its spread is something that now concerns us all.



AIDS. YOU'RE AS SAFE AS YOU WANT TO BE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE ABOUT AIDS, FREEPHONE THE 24-HOUR NATIONAL AIDS HELPLINE ON 0800 567123.



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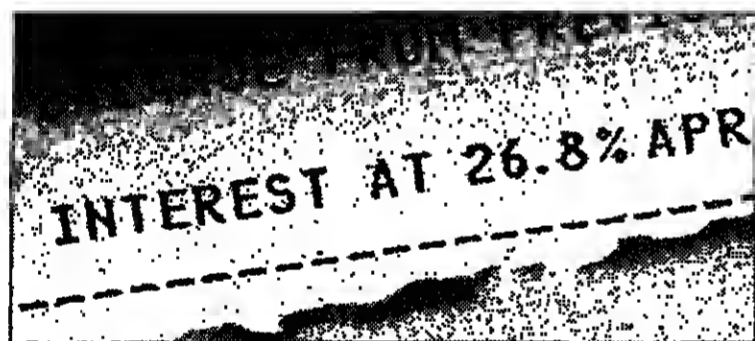








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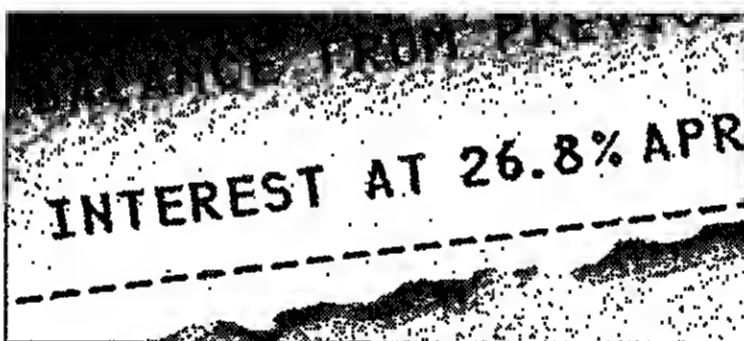
And where better to begin the search than with the new Halifax Visa Card.

You'll find it gives you everything you'd expect from a major credit card.

What it doesn't give you is an unacceptably high rate of interest when you spread the repayments.

	Purchases APR	Cash advances APR
Barclaycard .....	26.8%	27.2%
Midland Access .....	26.8%	26.8%
Halifax Visa .....	20.9%	21.7%

Moreover, being backed by Visa means a great many benefits.



MIDLAND ACCESS

It's the world's largest payment system, so your card is welcome in some 6 million places and more than 160 countries.

In the UK alone, you can use it in 285,000 shops, hotels and restaurants.

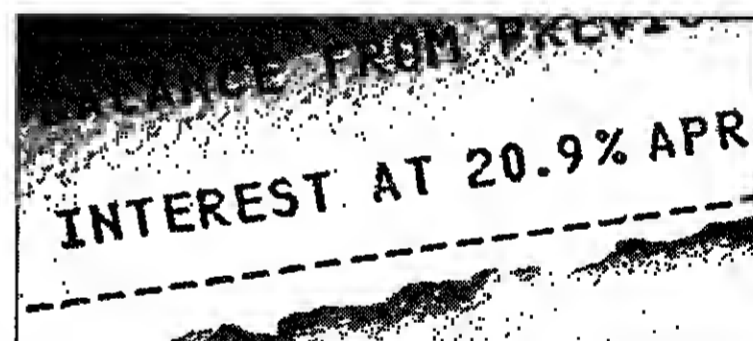


And you can use it to get cash from any cash machine where you see the Visa symbol. Not to mention any of the country's 740 Halifax branches.

Halifax Visa also offers you some more unusual features.

You decide, for instance, in which half of the month you would like to settle your bill.

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HALIFAX VISA

much credit you would like. Or, for that matter, how little. You can even apply to transfer any outstanding balance from another card to Halifax Visa in order to take advantage of our lower rates.

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STOCK MARKET

TOKYO

NEW YORK

Investors stay on the sidelines

This week's struggle between the bulls and bears showed few signs of resolving itself yesterday as share prices continued to fluctuate wildly in thin conditions.

Last week's bad trade figures and the 1 per cent rise in base rates to 13 per cent remains prominent in investors' minds. The City fund managers are in no rush to test the water. They appear content to leave their money in the bank. One broker said: "Why risk it in a nervous equity market?"

Prices made a dull start, still suffering from the effects of a £100 million sell programme on Wednesday evening, carried out by Phillips & Drew for one of its clients.

Talk of a £130 million sell programme — this time by County NatWest WoodMac — did little to soothe frayed nerves yesterday. But a few cheap buyers enabled prices to close above their worst levels. This was reflected in the FT-SE 100 index, which, having been 20.7 down at its lowest point, reduced the loss to 13.7 at 1,778.7. The narrower FT index of 30 shares finished 7.8 lower at 1,450.2.

Dealers said that there had been demand from Tokyo with investors prepared to pay "out of the money" for the January 180p series. At current levels, the share price would have to rise by at least

dealing costs. Application lists are due to close at 10 am today.

Government securities ended little changed on the day.

GEC, which has linked up with Siemens, the West German industrial group, to launch a £1.6 billion for its rival, Plessey, was one of the few bright features, clinging on to an early rise of 4p at 177p. By the close, almost 6 million shares had changed hands. This followed reports of heavy call option business which saw the equivalent of more than 500,000 shares absorbed by call option activity.

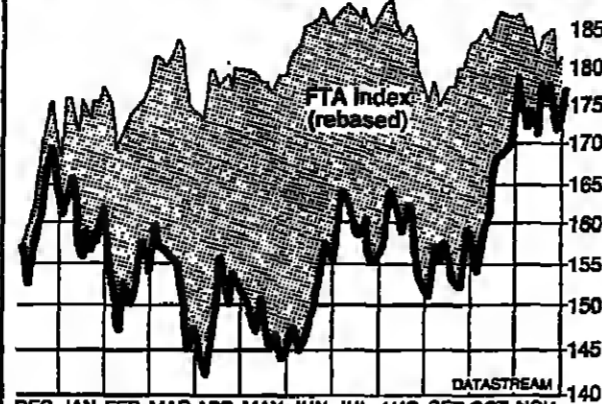
Dealers said that there had been demand from Tokyo with investors prepared to pay "out of the money" for the January 180p series. At current levels, the share price would have to rise by at least

billion-plus cash mountain. Some analysts claim that the group has become a "sleeping giant."

Lord Weinstock, GEC's managing director, has been thinking of 1992 in launching his bid for Plessey. But vague talk in the market-place claimed that GEC could find itself on the receiving end of a bid before long. It has even been suggested that Siemens may decide to try to snap up both GEC and Plessey. Cash-rich Hanson is also known to be on the look-out for acquisitions. It plans to increase its borrowing powers.

Still worried by the prospect of a monopolies referral, Plessey spent an unsettled day but managed to close un-

GEC Attracting support in Traded Options market



DATASTREAM DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV

group appears to have recovered from recent problems. But shares of Racal Telecom Group, which was floated off from the parent company this year, remained friendless with the price slipping another 1p to 159p.

Reuters, the international news agency and financial information group, managed to reduce an earlier fall to finish just 3p lower at 461p, after 459p. The group last night addressed a presentation of analysts and fund managers in New York. Brokers have become increasingly alarmed about the contraction of financial markets around the world since the crash.

In stores, Next tumbled 20p to 136p following the news of the group's profits warning. Mr George Davis, the chairman and chief executive, said that difficult conditions in the second half and other problems would result in profits being "significantly lower" than last year.

Dixons, the high street electrical goods retailer, lost an early lead to finish 2 1/2p lower at 142p. A group of overseas businessmen has been trying to put together a consortium, aimed at launching a leveraged buyout of the group.

The consortium would like to sell the retail operation, helping it to finance the deal and allowing it to concentrate on the property portfolio.

Michael Clark

Prices dip on US rates fear

(Reuters) — Share prices fell yesterday after reaching a record high as bullishness was overwhelmed by concern over the pace of recent gains and possible higher US interest rates, brokers said.

The Nikkei index fell 37.44 points, or 0.13 per cent, to 29,541.46. It rose 260.60 points to a record close of 29,578.90 on Wednesday.

It reached a traded high of 29,683.74 yesterday morning, boosted by Wall Street's three-day rally. The previous high, set on Wednesday, was 29,579.87.

Rises and falls were almost matched with 494 up and 390 down. Turnover was 1.5 billion shares against 1.6 billion.

Advances were led by securities houses, non-life insurance, shipping, warehouse, fishery, credit/lease, machinery, railway/bus, retail and textile shares.

Hong Kong — Prices closed slightly higher after another active day with property shares again leading the market, brokers said. The Hang Seng index gained 8.73 points to 2,668.03 and the broader-based Hong Kong index was 9.29 higher at 1,765.90.

Turnover reached HK\$1.17 billion (£31.15 million) compared with Wednesday's HK\$1.13 billion.

A share analyst said: "Technical factors are strong."

Michael Clark

Profit-takers stem share advance

(Reuters) — Shares fell in moderate, early trading yesterday as profit-takers moved in after recent gains which produced a 75-point rise in the Dow Jones industrial average in two weeks.

Investors moved to the sidelines in advance of today's report on US unemployment, traders said.

The Dow average fell 6 points to 2,108.51. Declines outnumbered advances by two to one.

Mr Harry Laubscher, a technical analyst at Tucker Anthony, RL Day, said: "They are taking some profits in advance of the unemployment numbers."

But he sees the rally which started on November 16 continuing until the end of the year.

The Dow average closed 12.98 higher on Wednesday.

Sydney — The market suffered its fourth consecutive fall as shares drifted down throughout the day.

At the close of floor trading, the All-Ordinaries index slipped 15.5 to 1,456. The All-Industrials index fell 20.6 to 2,422.7, the All-Resources 11.2 to 732.6 and the gold marker 19.5 to 1,489.0.

National turnover was 80.33 million shares, worth Aus\$152.98 million (£74.3 million).

WALL STREET

Table listing Wall Street stock prices for various companies including AMR, ASA, and others, with columns for Nov 30 and Nov 29.

Table listing Wall Street stock prices for various companies including AMR, ASA, and others, with columns for Nov 30 and Nov 29.

Table listing Wall Street stock prices for various companies including AMR, ASA, and others, with columns for Nov 30 and Nov 29.

Table listing Canadian prices for various companies including Agropur, Alcan, and others.



STEEL BECOMES A LOT MORE Flexible WITH TRADED OPTIONS

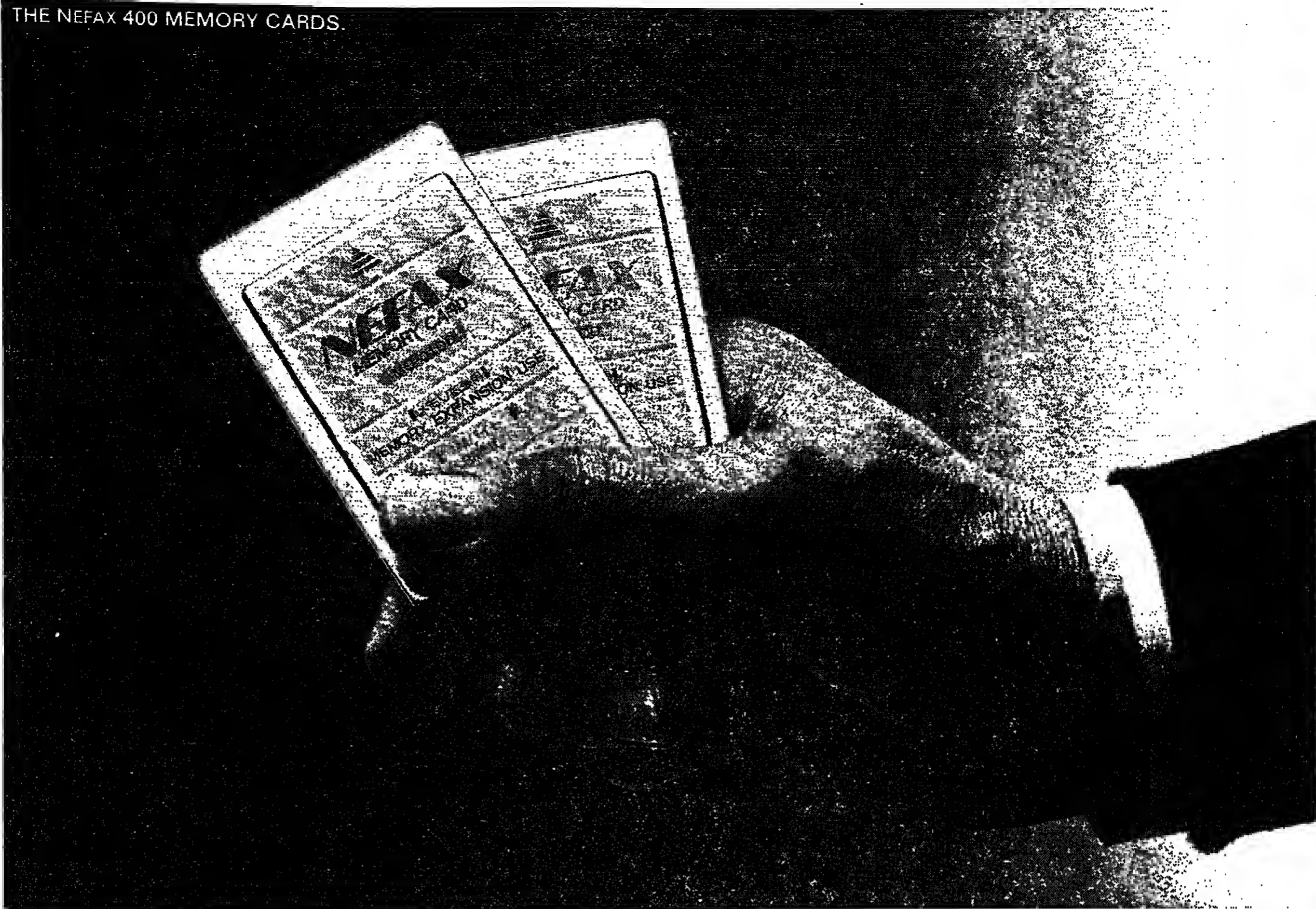
British Steel shares available to the market at 2.30pm on 5th December, British Steel Traded Options will also join the other 60 leading equity options now being traded on the LTOM. Our extended range of option contracts offers you greater strategic flexibility through a wider choice of investment instruments. And more choice means more than just taking advantage of the available underlying stock. Why not find out exactly what these flexible instruments have to offer? Contact your adviser, or send for the LTOM brochure 'A GUIDE TO TRADED OPTIONS' and details of the LTOM video, the options analysis and pricing diskette and various training courses. Expert assistance is also available on the LTOM information line: 01-628 1054.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Large table of LONDON TRADED OPTIONS with columns for various stocks and their option prices.

CC Computers and Communications

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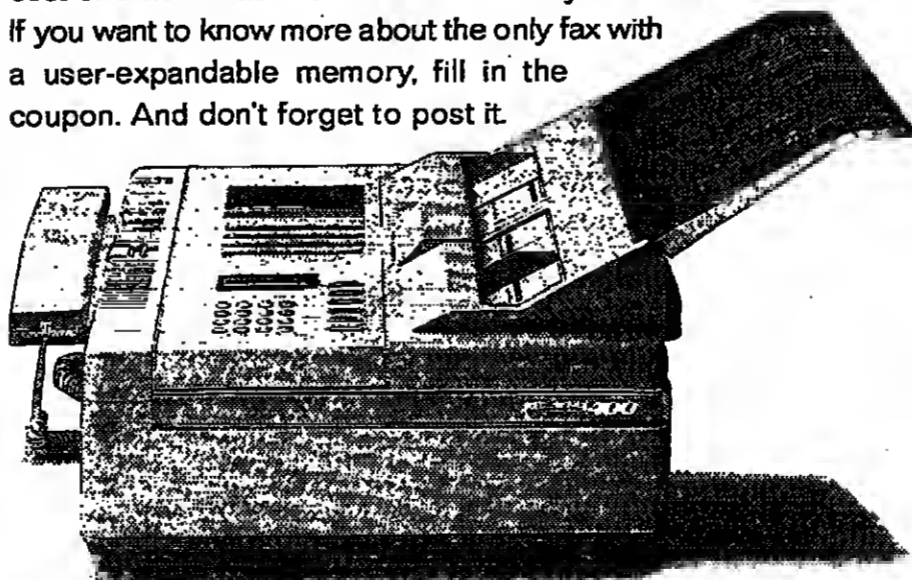
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# NEC

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ADDED OPTION

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities slide

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 28. Dealings end December 9. Contango day December 12. Settlement day December 19.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 28).

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

Table with 5 columns: No., Company, Group, Price, Gain or Loss. Lists various companies like Chapman, Howard Higgs, Anglo Sec, etc.

Please take into account any minus signs. Weekly Dividend. Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

Table with 7 columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Weekly Total. For tracking daily dividends.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change. Lists various funds like SHORTS (Under Five Years), FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS, OVER FIFTEEN YEARS.

UNDATED

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change. Lists undated stocks.

INDEX-LINKED

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Stock, Price, Change. Lists index-linked stocks.

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists banks and discount houses.

BREWERIES

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists brewery companies.

BUILDING, ROADS

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists building and road companies.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists chemical and plastic companies.

DRAPERY, STORES

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists drapery and store companies.

ELECTRICALS

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists electrical companies.

FINANCE, LAND

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists finance and land companies.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists financial trusts.

FOODS

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists food companies.

HOTELS, CATERERS

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists hotels and caterers.

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists industrial companies A-D.

E-K

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists industrial companies E-K.

L-R

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists industrial companies L-R.

S-N

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists industrial companies S-N.

INSURANCE

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists insurance companies.

LEISURE

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists leisure companies.

MINING

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists mining companies.

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists motor and aircraft companies.

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists newspaper and publisher companies.

OILS, GAS

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists oil and gas companies.

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator advertisement with details on daily dividend (£4,000) and accumulator (£28,000).

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists overseas traders.

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists paper, print, and advertising companies.

PROPERTY

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists property companies.

SHIPPING

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists shipping companies.

SHOES, LEATHER

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists shoe and leather companies.

TEXTILES

Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists textile companies.

TOBACCO

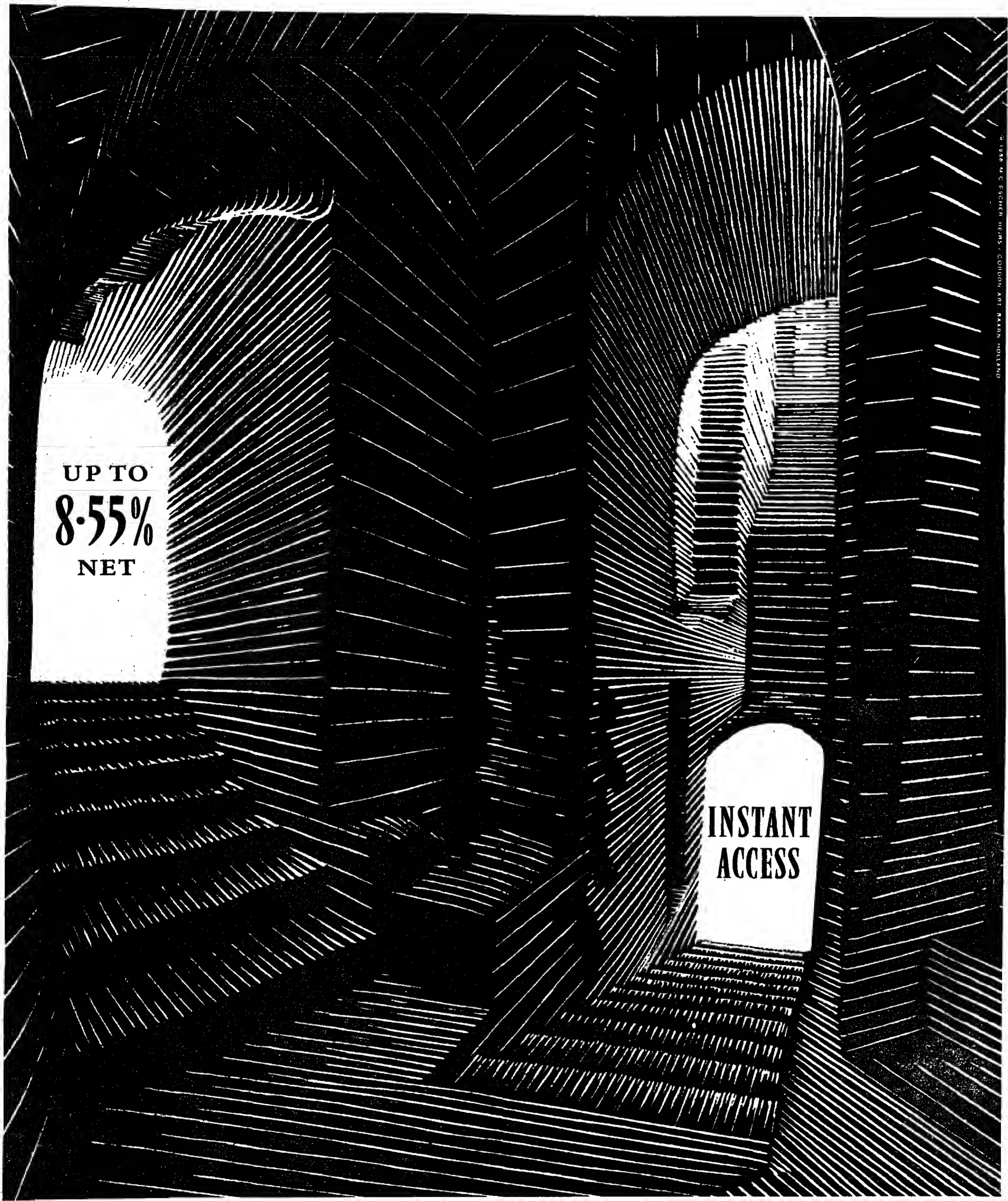
Table with 5 columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change. Lists tobacco companies.

Ex Dividend = Ex Div Forecast dividend = margin payment passed 1 Price at suspension of dividend and yield include a special payment if Pro-rata = Pro-rata share split 1 Tax-free No significant data.





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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_



TMS 2-12

**The Royal Bank of Scotland**

A MEMBER OF IMRO & AFBF

Interest is paid quarterly. Interest rates are variable, but correct at time of going to press. The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. Registered office 36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YB. Registered in Scotland No. 90312.

Table of unit trusts including sections for 'UNIT TRUST MANAGERS', 'GENERAL INVESTMENT', 'EQUITY', 'BOND', 'MONEY MARKET', and 'SPECIAL INTEREST'. Columns include name, bid, offer, and change.

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Table of unlisted securities with columns for company name, price, bid, offer, and change.

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Table of investment trusts with columns for name, bid, offer, and change.

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THE PRICE IN THIS SECTION REFERS TO WEDNESDAY'S TRADING. Includes a note about the price in this section referring to Wednesday's trading.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates for Sterling Index, Sterling Spot, and Forward Rates.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table of dollar spot rates for various currencies including Australia, Canada, and Japan.

MONEY MARKETS

Table of money market rates for Euro Money Deposits and Gold.

THIRD MARKET

Table of third market trading for various commodities.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts with columns for name, bid, offer, and change.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures for FT-SE 100, Three Month Sterling, and Three Month Eurodollar.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices for COCOA, CRUDE OIL, and SUGAR.

Table of commodity prices for LONDON METAL EXCHANGE and MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMODIONS.



BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

LONDON'S LEADING AUTHORISED TOSHIBA COMPUTER DEALER

T1100 PLUS SAVE £500... Limited Period Only... NEW LOW PRICES ON ALL MODELS...

SHOWROOMS: 223 Tottenham Court Road, W1... ALSO AVAILABLE: T1000, T1200, FB/HE, TS100/20MB, T1600, T3200...

SANTA'S EARLY FAX SPECIAL

CANON 230 CANON 410 OLIVETTI T14M810 MITSUBISHI 2150 SHARP F880... AT PRICES TO CLEAR BEFORE XMAS FROM £795.00

Established 53 Years FOR SALE Jack Taylor Cycles... 1) FREEHOLD FACTORY 6,200 Square Feet Centrally situated...

PRIVATE COMPANY Two experienced businessmen have funds available to acquire/finance in an established company...

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

BRITISH RAILWAYS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is being made to Parliament in the present Session by the British Railways Board... 1. Construction of the following works...

OFFICER WITH WHOM DEPOSIT MADE: Chief Executive, Towns Hall, Woodhouse... County of Leicestershire, County of Lincolnshire, County of Northamptonshire...

COMPUTERS & COMPUTING SERVICES

EXPRESS AMSTRAD REPAIRS... Includes collection and delivery... (0276) 66099

MCD Computer Auctions... Regular auctions throughout the South East of England...

Stop Press: Hundreds of Home computers and games software along with cordless telephones just arrived for the Christmas Auction!

PROMOTION, PUBLICITY & MARKETING... PR on a budget. Regional/Postal/Display...

FAX + telephone answering machine copier... £995 + VAT

TELEFAX Showroom: 67 York St, London W1 Tel: 01-7064800 Fax: 01-7061560

ASSOCIATED BRITISH PORTS (GULL)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is being made to Parliament in the present Session by the Associated British Ports ("A.B. Ports")... 1. To authorise the Ports to construct the following works in the county of Hampshire...

IN PARLIAMENT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is being made to Parliament in the present Session by the Associated British Ports ("A.B. Ports")... 1. To authorise the Ports to construct the following works in the county of Hampshire...

CAR BUYERS' GUIDE

HIRE AND LEASING... FORDS ON FINANCE... Any model available on low cost CONTRACT HIRE...

Table with columns for Model, Price Weekly, and Mileage. Includes models like Fiesta, Escort, Sierra, and various Mercedes and Porsche models.

BUY \* RENT \* LEASE \* CONTRACT HIRE... SECTOR VEHICLE SOURCING... SAAB 9000i 'E' Automatic...

520'S IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE... Choice of colour (Auto; sunroof; electric windows)...

BCL INGENUITY IN FINANCE... CONTRACT HIRE OF A BRAND NEW FIAT CHROMA CHT £47.50 per week...

PRESTIGE CAR LEASING... Models available: Rover 2000i 'E' Automatic, Rover 2000i 'E' Automatic...

D.C. COOK BUSHEY HEATH VEHICLE CONTRACTS... CONTRACT HIRE LEASING & RENT PURCHASE FOR ALL MAKES OF BUSINESS CARS & LIGHT COMMERCIALS...

Lindsay Vehicle Contracts... CARS & COMMERCIAL VEHICLES CONTRACT HIRE & LEASING SPECIALISTS...

TOYOTA... Lease or Contract Hire... 1988 D Bentley Turbo 'R' Special...

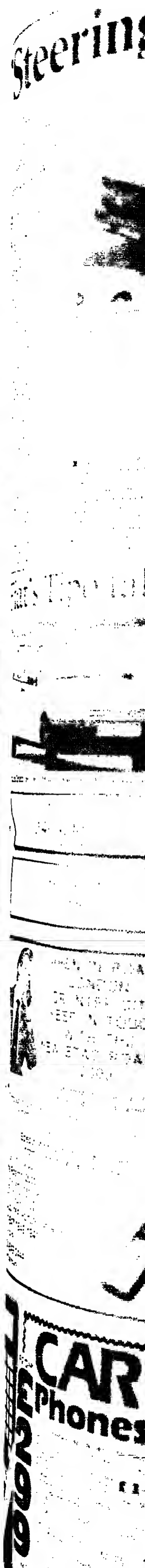
ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY 1983 BENTLEY 3.5 CONTINENTAL... Convertible by Mulliner Park Ward...

HONDA WEST LONDON'S HONDA DEALER... SALES \* PARTS \* SERVICE... CONTACT US FOR ALL YOUR HONDA REQUIREMENTS...

RODDENS... INTRODUCING THE NEW ROAMER 2000... THE SMALLEST LIGHTWEIGHT ETACS PORTABLE IN THE WORLD!

CAR & MOBILE PHONES... INTRODUCING THE NEW ROAMER 2000... THE SMALLEST LIGHTWEIGHT ETACS PORTABLE IN THE WORLD!

CAR PHONES... Fitted Motorola, Hand 11A ETACS with hands free... FREE HOLIDAY NOW INCLUDES 2 weeks in Florida...





THE ARTS 1

Samuel Beckett may have won his *Endgame*, Diane Hill writes, but the sounds of battle linger on

Playing hard for a promotion

Steve Earle & The Dukes

ROCK

Either Steve Earle is about to graduate to the big league, in which case he could conceivably win a place at the top table where Bruce Springsteen and John Cougar Mellencamp preside...

The New Country marketing exercise. Far, with a disconcertingly chameleon-like ease, Earle has now become a born-again rocker.

Despite such over-ambitious and stylistically confused pretensions, the makings of a great show were there to be distilled. His acoustic roots continued to run deep and strong...

He introduced "Snake Oil", he with some clichés concerning the similarities between showbusiness and politics, and concluded that with a band as good as the Dukes behind him he could sell us anything.

David Sinclair



A mutant, apocalyptic Morecambe and Wise: Roland Bertin (left) and Michel Amont as Clov and Hamm

Pristine dustbins

PARIS THEATRE

A handful of days before opening night, Samuel Beckett exercised his "moral rights as an author" and let it be known that he was out in agreement with Gildas Bourdet's personalized direction of *Fin de Partie* (*Endgame*), or with his strawberry pink design, or with his addition of music...

tant, apocalyptic Morecambe and Wise. Hamm's aged parents, Nell and Nagg (intuitive performances from Bérengère Dautin and Jean-Paul Moulint), take on the air of twin spouses, popping out of their *piéd-à-terre* dustbins, bang on cue with the feed-lines.

There are a lot more laughs than one remembers from previous productions of the play, which is a continuation of Beckett's preoccupation with the illusion of time, of characters caught to a limbo, moving towards a death that never comes.

After the recent success of *L'Eloignement* (*The Distancing*), Loleh Belino's (new play) *Une Absence* (more accurately interpreted as *Something Missing*) comes over as a lukewarm affair.

In *Une Absence* the human relationships which go awry are centred round Germaine Meunier, an elderly, retired schoolteacher who collapses in her bedstair.

male course, the garunus con- cierge who found her, an adoring ex-pupil and an obnoxious relative.

It is oo to this ill-assorted quartet that Germaine projects her inner consciousness. In her head they act out the events that misshaped her life, taking on the personalities of the husband who

left her and the nuly son, who oov lives in America.

The characters on stage pass, without preamble, from the real-time of hospital life through to the remembered times in Germaine's head, a transition which, Belino manages with a verbal adroitness which is not carried through by Maurice Benichou's messy direc-

tion. Belino wrote the play with Suzanne Flon in mind for the role of Germaine. Consequently it is tailor-made for her birdlike physical fragility, her quietly powerful dramatic presence. Despite Flon and an excellent supporting cast, however, Belino's message about marriage is drowned by the play's low-key dramatic drabness.

CAR BUYERS GUIDE

01-481 4000 PRIVATE ADVERTISERS

01-481 4422 TRADE ADVERTISERS

GENERAL LOVESAY FLEET SALES NEW CAR SPECIALISTS. Includes listings for various car models like Vauxhall Cavalier, Ford Fiesta, etc.

MERCEDES MERCEDES 190 E. 1987, 1.9, 1.9, 1.9. Includes details on engine, transmission, and price.

MERCEDES 300SL. 1967, 3.0, 190,000 miles. Includes details on condition and price.

MERCEDES 190E AUTO. 1987, 1.9, 1.9, 1.9. Includes details on features and price.

JAGUAR & DAIMLER AUTHORIZED DEALERS. Includes listings for Jaguar XJ6 and Daimler vehicles.

HARTWELLS. 1985 (J) JAGUAR XJ6 V12. Includes details on engine, transmission, and price.

HARTWELLS. 1988 (E) JAGUAR SVX 3.6. Includes details on engine, transmission, and price.

PERFORMANCE CARS Godfrey Davis. Includes listings for various high-performance car models.

CITROEN. 1988 Citroen CX 2.5 G6 Turbo 2. Includes details on engine, transmission, and price.

ASTON MARTIN VANTAGE 1985. 4000 miles, FSH. Includes details on condition and price.

PORSCHE PRESTIGE MOTOR INSURANCE AGENTS. DO YOU WANT OR INDEED OWN A PRESTIGIOUS OR HIGH PERFORMANCE MOTOR CAR?

PORSCHE 928 S. Auto, 1983, 45,000 miles. Includes details on condition and price.

PORSCHE 959. Black metallic, £280,000 duty not paid. Tel: 0605 45783.

VW GOLF GTI 1987. 1575. Includes details on engine, transmission, and price.

VOLVO 740GL AUTO SALOON 1988 E. Includes details on engine, transmission, and price.

VOLVO 740GL AUTO SALOON 1988 E. Includes details on engine, transmission, and price.

VOLVO 740GL AUTO SALOON 1988 E. Includes details on engine, transmission, and price.

MERCEDES 190E AUTO. 1987, 1.9, 1.9, 1.9. Includes details on features and price.

MERCEDES 300 SE. 1987, 3.0, 190,000 miles. Includes details on condition and price.

MERCEDES 560 SEC COUPE. 1988, 5.6, 190,000 miles. Includes details on condition and price.

MERCEDES BENZ. Includes details on various models and prices.

JAGUAR XJ6 3.6 AUTO. 1987, 3.6, 190,000 miles. Includes details on condition and price.

JAGUAR XJ6 3.6 AUTO. 1987, 3.6, 190,000 miles. Includes details on condition and price.

JAGUAR SOVEREIGN 4.2 AUTO. 1988, 4.2, 190,000 miles. Includes details on condition and price.

JAGUAR SOVEREIGN 4.2 AUTO. 1988, 4.2, 190,000 miles. Includes details on condition and price.

SAAB. Includes listings for various car models.

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MERCEDES-BENZ AUTHORIZED DEALERS. Includes contact information for Maloney & Rhodes.

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RUGBY UNION

Stricken Midlands may face North without Richards

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

London, who play the South and South-West at Gloucester, have been forced to make two amendments to their side for the opening round tomorrow of the Toshiba divisional championship...

Still doubt on Norster

Wales should know early next week when they will be without the lock forward, Bob Norster, for the international against Romania in Cardiff tomorrow week (Peter Bills writes)...

Hart back as NZ selector

By David Hands

John Hart, who helped weld Auckland into arguably the most powerful provincial side in the world, was returned yesterday to the New Zealand selection panel after year away...

Wellington keep up unbeaten run

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

Wellington continued their wonderful season, which has brought 10 wins from 10 matches, with a hard-fought 15-12 victory over Dunedin...

Rossall's strength takes toll

By Michael Stevenson

Rossall School 19 Trinity GS, Sydney 3 Trinity Grammar School, who fielded a mixture of under-16 and senior players, showed great spirit at Farnborough yesterday...

Ocean race that begins in a puddle



Making a splash: potential services yachtsmen flounder through the course at Aldershot

Services seek few to carry revitalized yachting hopes

By Mick Cleary

Aldershot is a funny place to start a life on the ocean wave. Not a boat to be seen; not a coastline for many a mile; and not a drop of water in sight...

Rivals contest high stakes

By Jenny MacArthur

The two giants of European show jumping, John Whitaker and Pierre Le Corre, are set to meet in the final of the Volvo World Cup event in the Netherlands...

FOOTBALL

Liverpool ready to announce their verdict on Molby

By Ian Ross

Jan Molby, the Danish international, will this morning be given the opportunity to resurrect his career with Liverpool. Molby, aged 25, was released from Preston prison yesterday morning after serving six weeks of a three-month sentence...

Cup defeat fires Kidderminster

Non-League football by Paul Newman

Kidderminster Harriers go to Newport County tomorrow hoping to maintain a remarkable improvement in their fortunes to the past five weeks. Since a miserable October, in which they suffered three successive FA Cup defeats...

BOXING

Tired McKenzie given time to regain snap

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Duke McKenzie was yesterday eight to redouble his efforts to regain his boxing and take on Trevor Hughroy Currie for the vacant British title while his win over his first 'name' heavyweight, James Tillis, of Oklahoma, is still in his mind...

ATHLETICS

Nebiolo under scrutiny by Roman judge

Rome - A Rome magistrate has officially opened an investigation into the Italian Athletics Federation (Fidal)...

SKIING

Frost bites for Figini

From Iain Macleod, Val d'Isère

Snow, the gold dust of the Alps, has started to melt in the quantity which will offer peace of mind to the organizers of the two World Cup downhill races this weekend.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with multiple columns listing sports events, dates, and locations. Includes sections for Badminton, Basketball, Boxing, Cycling, Ice Hockey, Ice Skating, Squash, Tennis, and Football.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table listing today's fixtures for various sports including Rugby, Football, Tennis, and Squash.

REAL TENNIS

Cornwallis is a faller at second hurdle

Magda Groszek defeated Melvyn Pignon, the former captain of the England women's hockey team, 6-3, 6-3 in the second round of the George Wimpey women's open singles championship at Queen's Club, London...

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